MARVEL
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
KNAUF • ZIRCHER
EXECUTE PROGRAM

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

EXECUTE PROGRAM

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PREVIOUSLY:

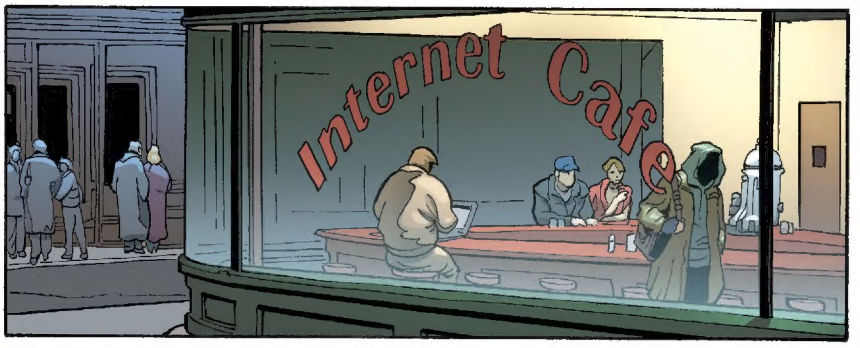
In order to defeat Mallen, a seditionist turned super-soldier thanks to the performance-enhancing EXTREMIS VIRUS, Tony Stark convinced an old colleague, Maya Hansen, to inject him with the Extremis Virus as well, creating a bio-interface between him and the Iron Man armor and enabling him to not only utilize the system to its fullest potential, but instantly access computers and any digital system worldwide at the speed of thought.

After destroying Mallen, Iron Man determines that Maya was responsible for unleashing the virus. She is arrested and jailed. Presently, we find Tony Stark now biologically integrated with his Iron Man armor, imbued with unprecedented powers and abilities.

#7

LONDON
Coka Coka
McConell's
TKD
AUDIO VIDEO CD TAPE
SANNO
Goldsburg
Goldsburg
PRINCE
MAKE IT COCOLO
SEE IT AT THE ODEON
UNDERGROUND
UNDERGROUND
HEY...
PISS OFF.
SFFFT...

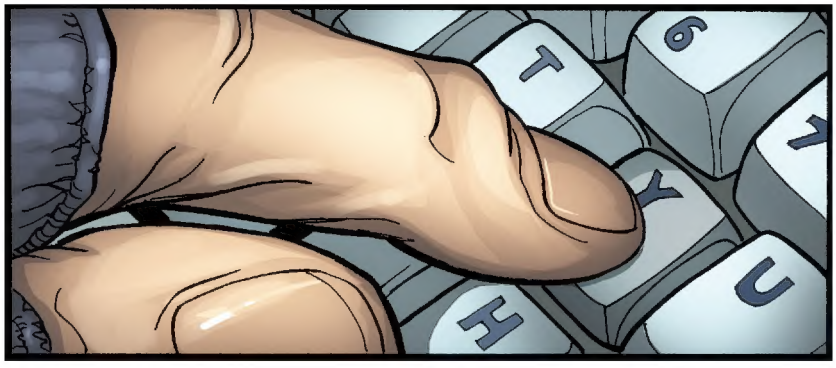
WHAT'S WRONG?
I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE I'VE BEEN STABBED...


Internet Cafe

CHHKA-
ZZZ-
CHK-CHK-
CHHKA-

PROGRAM FILE// LIST
> ANDREI GORLOVICH
> DENNIS KELLARD
> ARA TANZERIAN
> ZAKIM KARZAI
> AFTAAB LEMAR
> KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB

COMMAND.EXE.TARGET.
> ANDREI GORLOVICH
> EXECUTE Y/N?

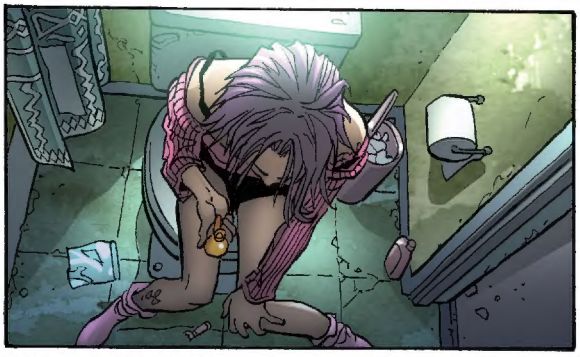

T
6
Y
7
U
H

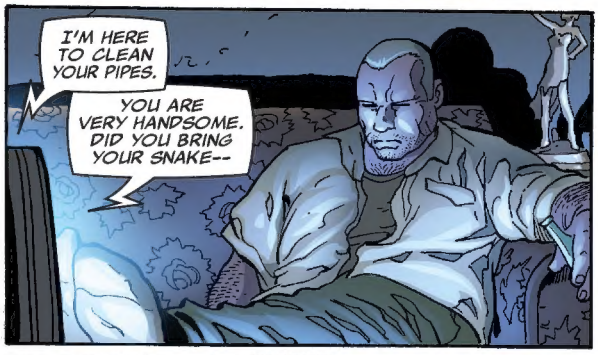
SOFIA, BULGARIA
SAME AS USUAL, GORLOVICH?

FIFTY LEV.

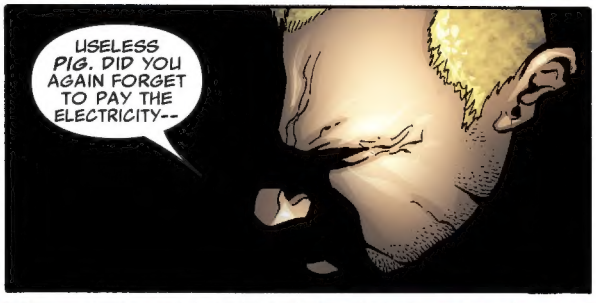
ALTITUDE: 43.5 M.
STEALTH MODE: ON
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: ACTIVE
TARGET: ACQUIRED

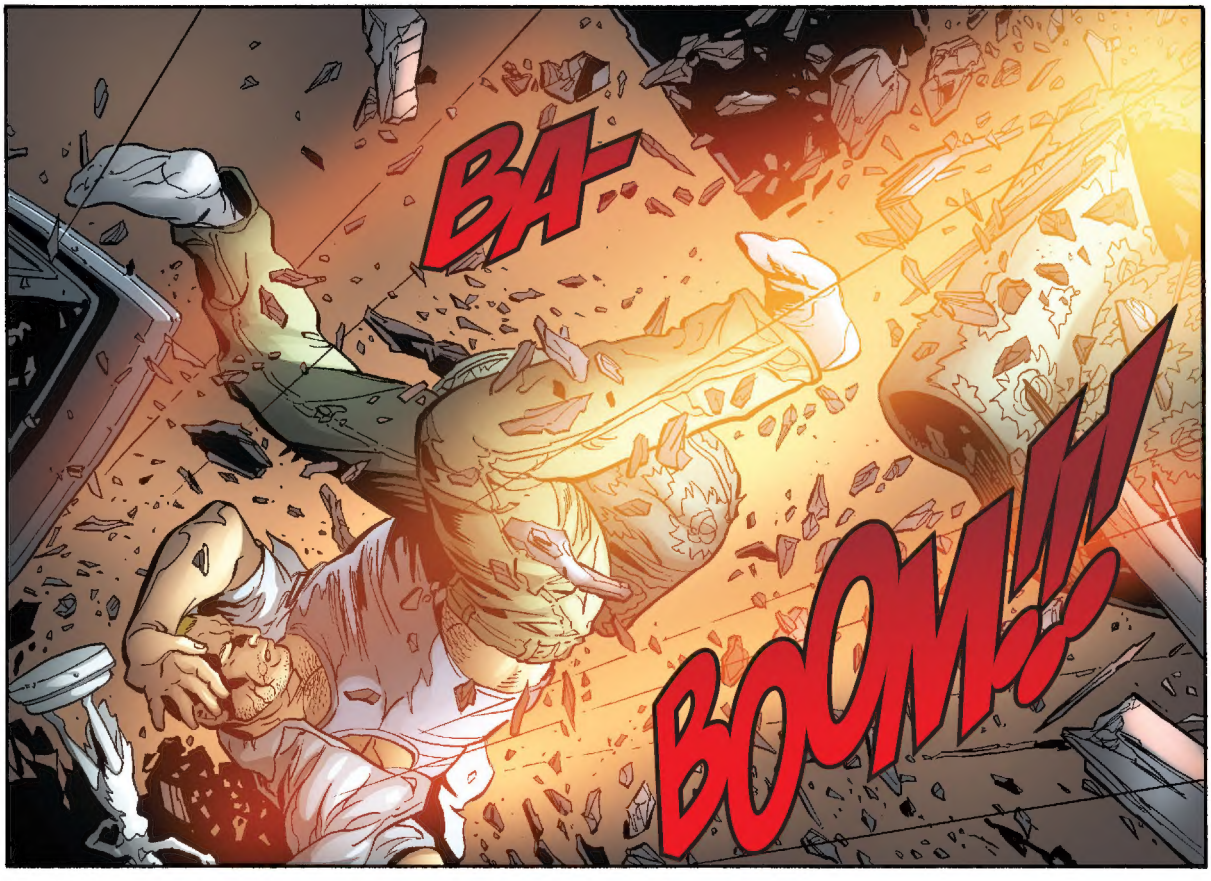
I GOT YOUR STUFF, PLEMINA. MAYBE NOW YOU CAN GET YOUR BONY ASS OUT ON THE STREET AND PAY FOR IT.
AT LEAST YOU'RE GOOD FOR SOMETHING, ANDREI.




I'M HERE TO CLEAN YOUR PIPES.
YOU ARE VERY HANDSOME. DID YOU BRING YOUR SNAKE--

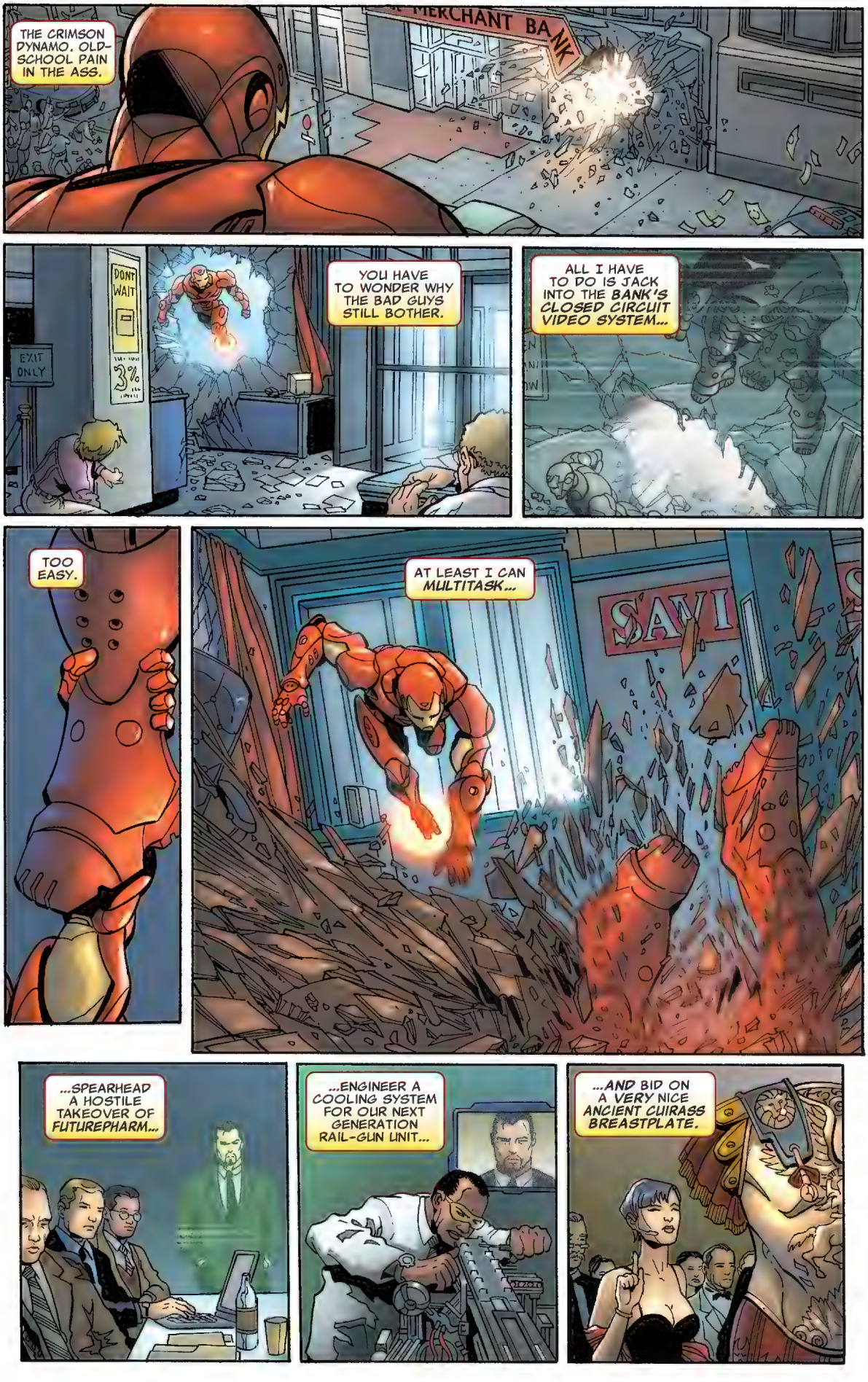
TH


USELESS PIG. DID YOU AGAIN FORGET TO PAY THE ELECTRICITY--


BA-
BOOM!!!

YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THE JOB.
GAAAAHHH-
ANDREI...?
SOFIA METRO POLICE STATION, HOURS LATER.
FORGET IT, SERGEANT. SHE HAS TOLD US NOTHING SINCE WE PICKED HER UP. SHE IS TOO SCARED.
MAFIA?
NO. THIS WAS NOT A CONTRACT JOB. FAR TOO MESSY. THE MAN'S HEAD WAS PASTE.
HELL WITH IT!
HEAR ME NOW, YOU DOG-SCUM! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! YOU WILL TELL ME WHO KILLED YOUR MAN, OR I WILL CHARGE YOU WITH HIS MURDER!
NOW TALK! WHO DID THIS?!
IT WAS... IT...WAS...

"... THE AMERICAN MAN OF IRON."
NEW YORK CITY


THE CRIMSON DYNAMO. OLD-SCHOOL PAIN IN THE ASS.
MERCHANT BANK
DONT WAIT
EXIT ONLY
3%
YOU HAVE TO WONDER WHY THE BAD GUYS STILL BOTHER.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS JACK INTO THE BANK'S CLOSED CIRCUIT VIDEO SYSTEM...
TOO EASY.
AT LEAST I CAN MULTITASK...
SAVI
...SPEARHEAD A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF FUTUREPHARM...
...ENGINEER A COOLING SYSTEM FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION RAIL-GUN UNIT...
...AND BID ON A VERY NICE ANCIENT CUIRASS BREASTPLATE.

AWW. SOMEBODY'S BWOKEN....
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE UNDERESTIMATED ME, IRON MAN...
FF-BOOM
BY THE TIME HE STARTS HIS SENTENCE THE ARMOR ADJUSTS TO THE EXPLOSION. .004 SECONDS.
ON THE WORD "HAVE," I CHARGED A MAGNETIC PULSE INTO THE ELBOW OF MY ARM. .002 SECONDS.
I WAIT 1.043 SECONDS TO LET HIM FINISH HIS SENTENCE.
THEN NAIL HIM WITH THE EQUIVALENT TO A SOLID STEEL BALL TRAVELING AT 3,500 FEET PER SECOND.
SS-BAMM!!

KEER-RANNGGG!
TIME TO STICK A FORK IN THIS.
GAAA...

STAND DOWN, IRON MAN, OR I WILL CRUSH THIS MAN'S SKULL TO JELLY.
OUTSTANDING!
WHAT?!
I JUST WON AN EXTRAORDINARY PIECE OF 4TH CENTURY B.C. ARMOR.
POWER UP...
...AND TAKE HIM DOWN.
UHN--

IS HE...?
DEAD? YEAH...
...FOR THE MOMENT.

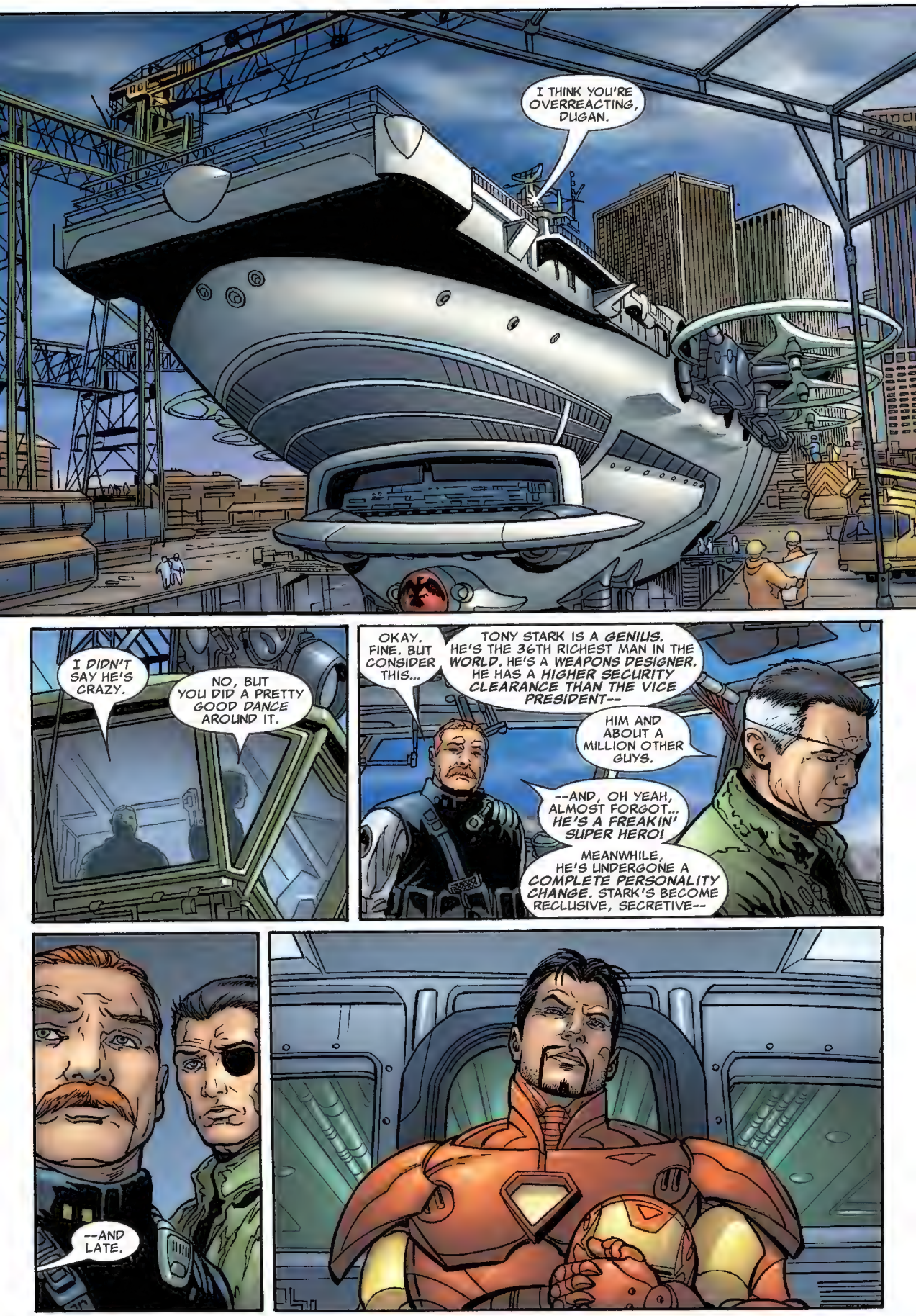
CLEAR!
KZ-AAT!
HRM.

KZ-AAT!
COUGH!... OHHH...
DAMN...
HE BROUGHT HIM BACK!
HE JUST TOUCHED HIM. DID YOU SEE THAT?
VRRRRRR

MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WHAT?!
I STOPPED HIS HEART.
YOU KILLED HIM?!
WELL, YEAH, I SUPPOSE. TECHNICALLY.
SO YOU TECHNICALLY KILLED HIM.
CAGE
I BROUGHT HIM BACK, STEVE.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT. YOU COULD HAVE HANDLED THE SITUATION WITHOUT STOPPING THE MAN'S HEART!
I CAN THINK OF AT LEAST FOUR WAYS--
--AND I CAN THINK OF SEVEN. BUT THIS ONE WAS THE MOST EXPEDIENT.
EXPEDIENT, TONY? OR INTERESTING?
I HAVE A TWO O' CLOCK.

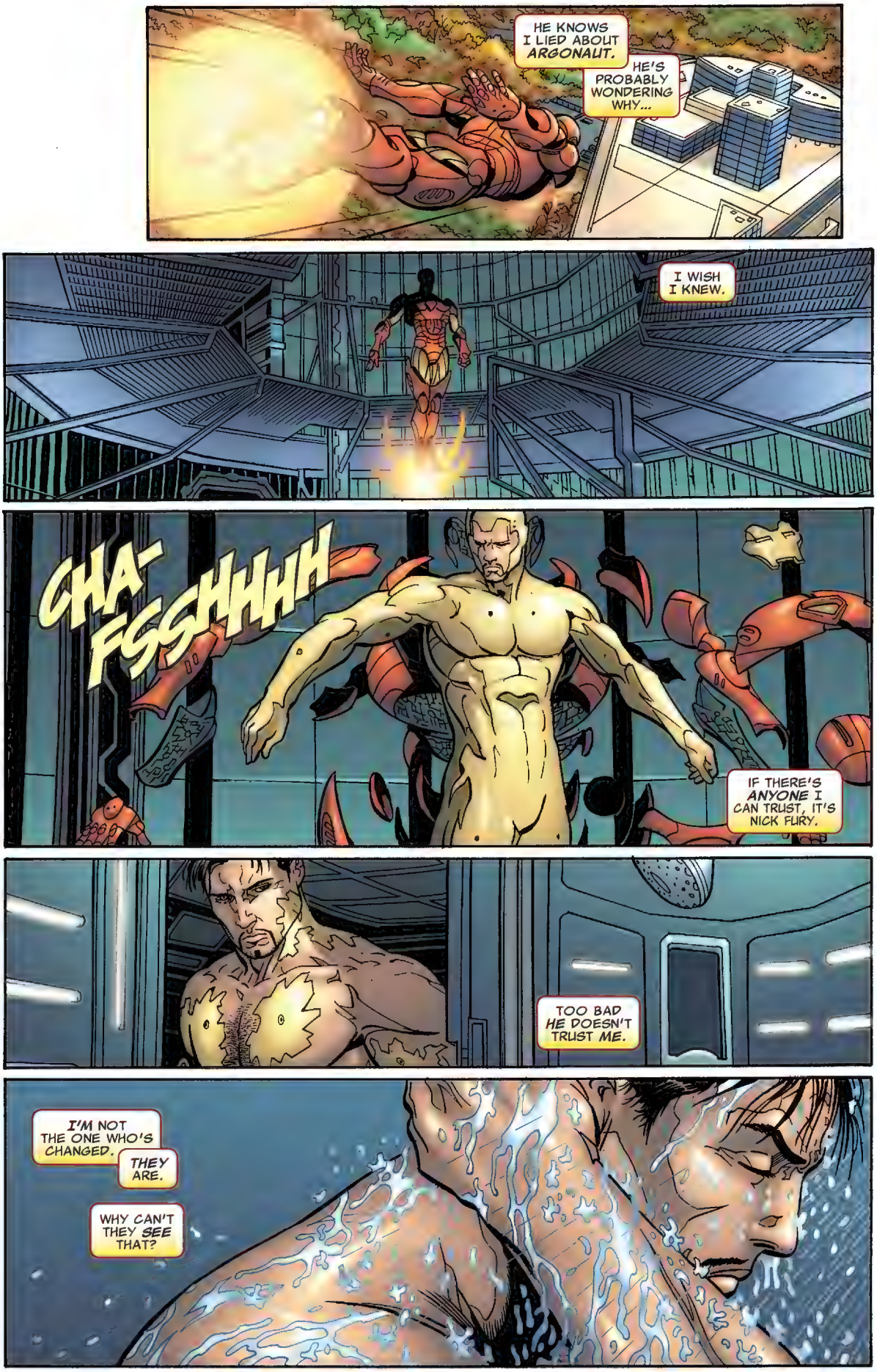
SO HE GETS THE GLORY AND WE GET THE GRUNT-WORK. SINCE WHEN DID WE BECOME HIS SIDEKICKS?
SHUT UP, LUKE.
JUST SPITTIN' TRUTH. ASK ME, THAT BALL-HOG COULD USE A GOOD ASS-WHOOPIN'.
LUKE...?
YEAH?

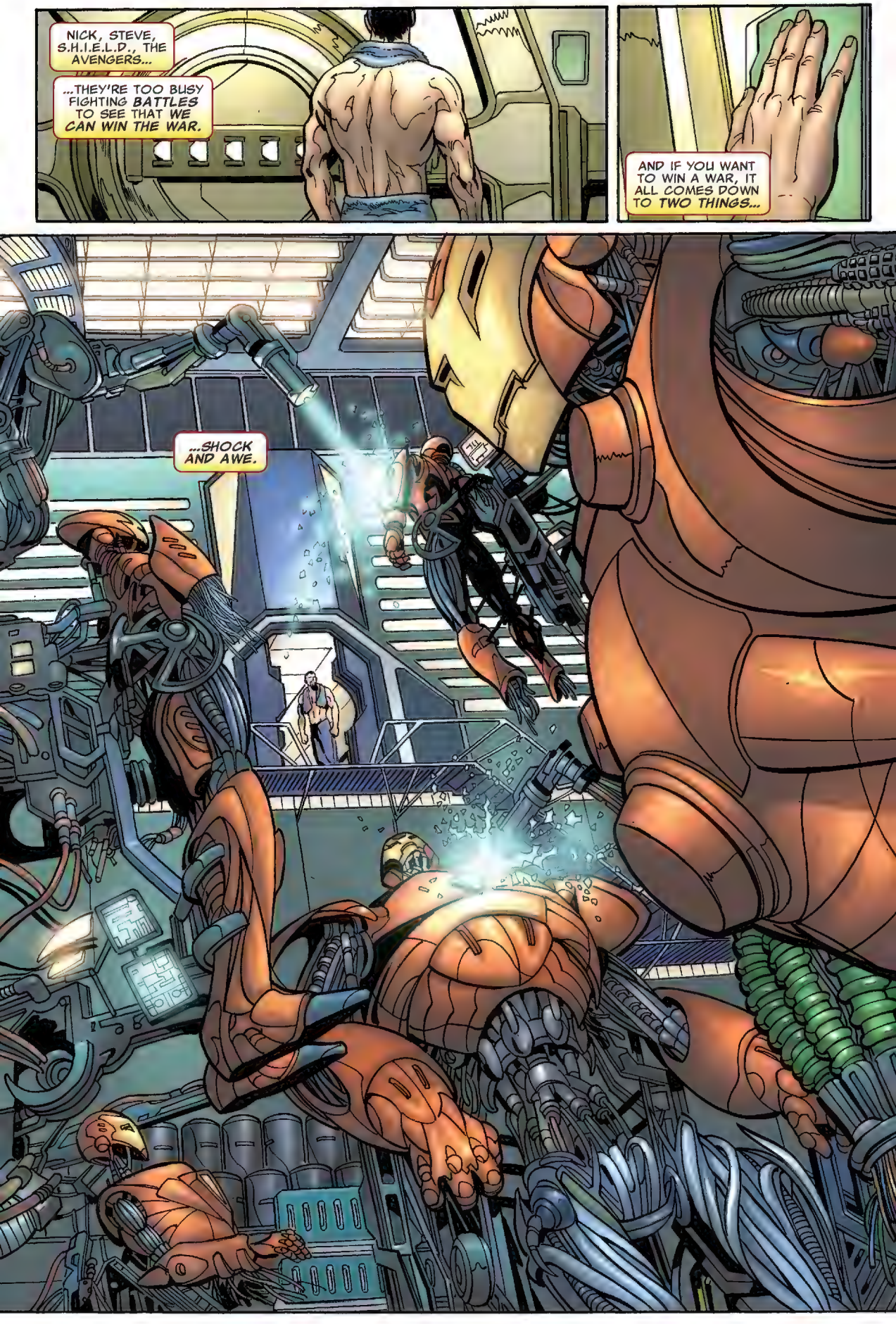
HE CAN HEAR EVERY WORD YOU'RE SAYING.

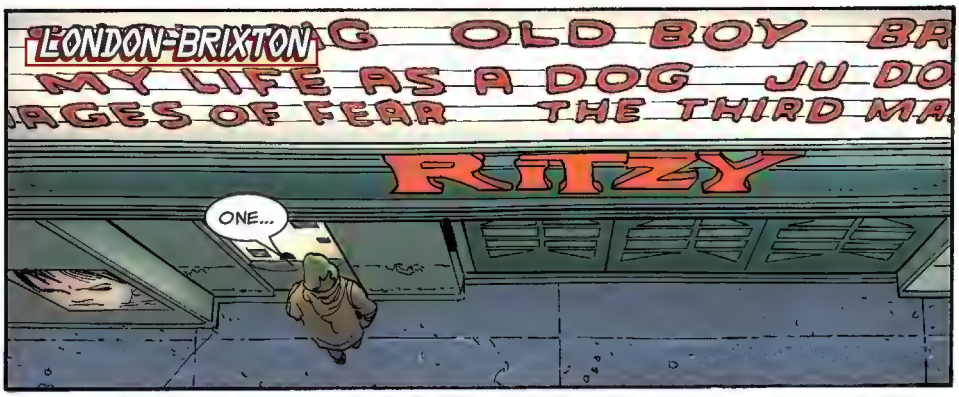

I THINK YOU'RE OVERREACTING, DUGAN.
I DIDN'T SAY HE'S CRAZY.
NO, BUT YOU DID A PRETTY GOOD DANCE AROUND IT.
OKAY. FINE. BUT CONSIDER THIS...
TONY STARK IS A GENIUS. HE'S THE 36TH RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD. HE'S A WEAPONS DESIGNER. HE HAS A HIGHER SECURITY CLEARANCE THAN THE VICE PRESIDENT--
HIM AND ABOUT A MILLION OTHER GUYS.
--AND, OH YEAH, ALMOST FORGOT... HE'S A FREAKIN' SUPER HERO!
MEANWHILE, HE'S UNDERGONE A COMPLETE PERSONALITY CHANGE. STARK'S BECOME RECLUSIVE, SECRETIVE--
--AND LATE.

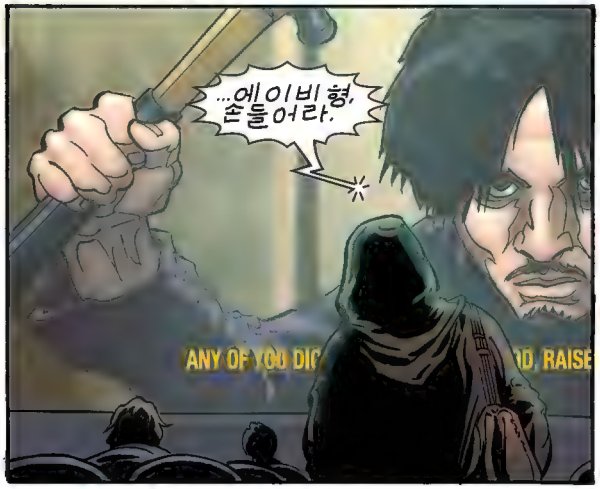
DISMISSED.
YOU GET ALL THAT?
MOST OF IT.
YOU LOOK LIKE CRAP.
THANKS FOR NOTICING.
I GOT YOUR SECURITY BRIEF ON THE GLOBAL SUMMIT.
SUGGESTIONS?
NOT MUCH, OTHER THAN IT SEEMS LIKE A MAJOR CASE OF OVERKILL. NO REASON TO TIE UP S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR THREE DAYS BABYSITTING 163 DELEGATES.
I CAN MORE THAN HANDLE IT MYSELF.
IS THAT YOU TALKING, OR THE *EXTREMIS*?
WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE WANT ME TO DO?! *PRETEND* I CAN'T HANDLE IT?! *PRETEND* I NEED HELP?! SHOULD I START OPERATING AT 50% JUST SO YOU AND CAP AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN FEEL *GOOD* ABOUT THEMSELVES?
THIS ISN'T ABOUT EGOS, TONY--
OF COURSE IT'S ABOUT EGOS. IT'S *ALL* ABOUT EGOS!
THINK ABOUT IT, NICK. *WHAT IF WAR WAS OBSOLETE?* WHAT IF TERRORISM AND CRIME, FAMINE AND DISEASE, WERE *OBSOLETE?*
WHERE WOULD WE BE?
DISNEYLAND?

THIS ISN'T A PIPE-DREAM, NICK! IT'S REAL. IT'S EVERYTHING I AM, EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR. AND IT'S WITHIN OUR GRASP...
...A WORLD AT PEACE.
TELL ME ABOUT ARGONAUT.
WHAT...?
PROJECT ARGONAUT.
AT LEAST THAT'S THE TITLE REFERENCED ON ONE OF YOUR SUBCONTRACTOR'S INTERNAL BUDGET SUMMARIES.
DOESN'T RING A BELL.
FUNNY. I'D THINK IT WOULD. SO FAR, YOU'VE SPENT 1.27 BILLION ON IT.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE ME UNDER SURVEILLANCE?
C'MON, TONY. DON'T BE RIDICULOUS...
...I HAVE EVERYBODY UNDER SURVEILLANCE.


HE KNOWS I LIED ABOUT *ARGONAUT*.
HE'S PROBABLY WONDERING WHY...
I WISH I KNEW.
CHA-FSSHHHH
IF THERE'S *ANYONE* I CAN TRUST, IT'S NICK FURY.
TOO BAD *HE* DOESN'T TRUST *ME*.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S CHANGED.
THEY ARE.
WHY CAN'T THEY *SEE* THAT?


NICK, STEVE, S.H.I.E.L.D., THE AVENGERS...
...THEY'RE TOO BUSY FIGHTING BATTLES TO SEE THAT WE CAN WIN THE WAR.
AND IF YOU WANT TO WIN A WAR, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO TWO THINGS...
...SHOCK AND AWE.

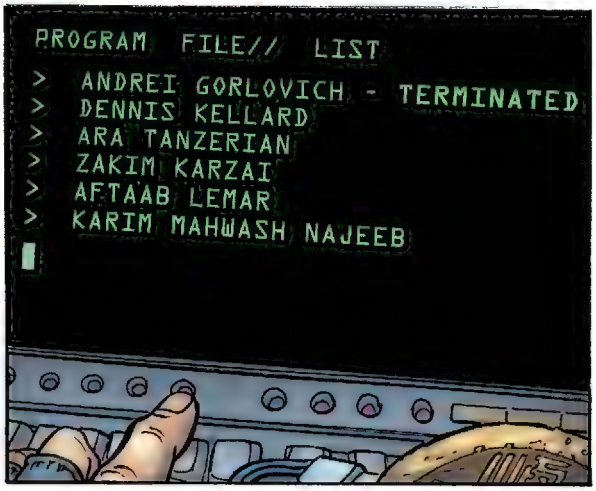

LONDON-BRIXTON
OLD BOY
MY LIFE AS A DOG
AGES OF FEAR
THE THIRD MA
RITZY
ONE...

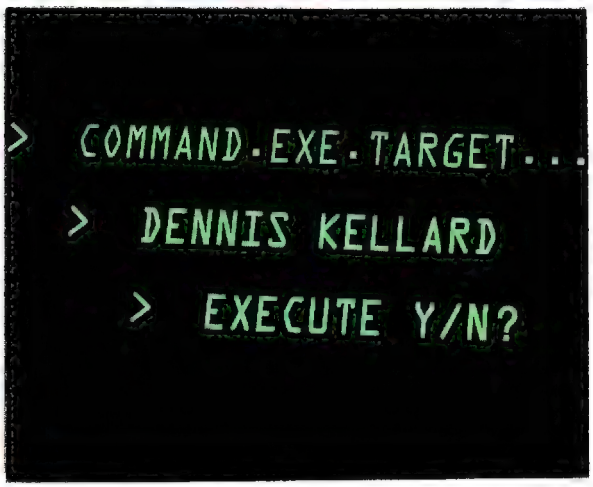

...에이비 형, 손들어라.
ANY OF YOU DIC
ID, RAISE

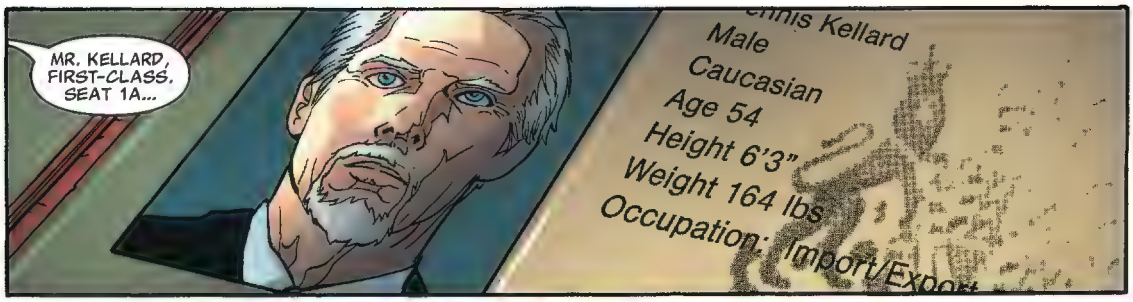
아 저 씨....내가요, 아무리 짐승만두 못한 놈이어두요, 네?살 권리는 있는 거 아닌가요, 네?
POP CORN
I♡MC2

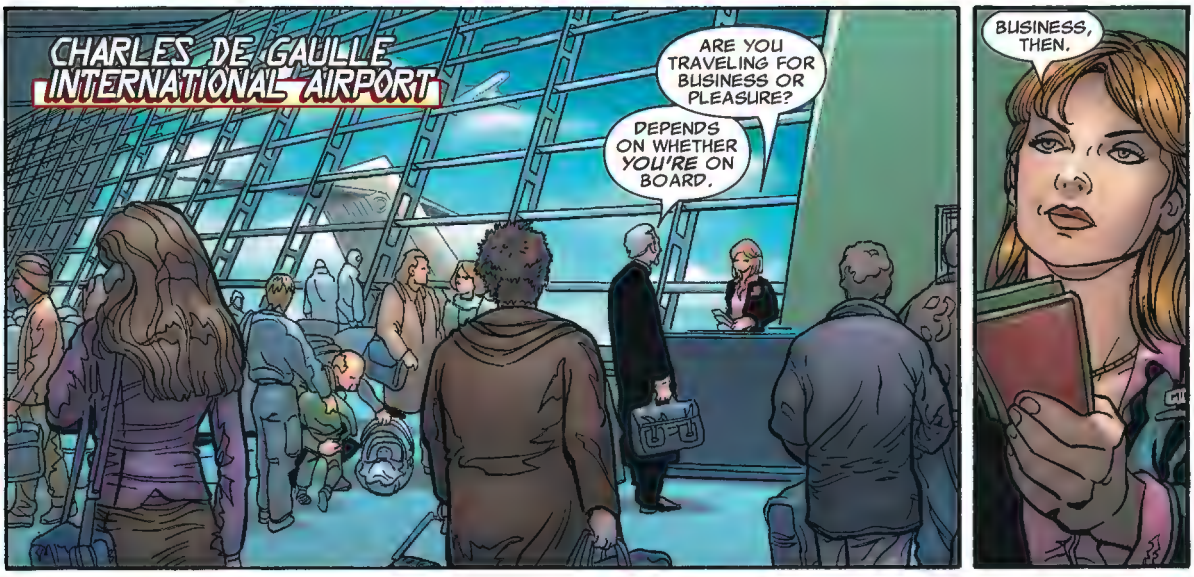
때 때로 최면술은 기억을 왜곡 시킬 수 있어요.

RADIOHEAD
YA GOTTA LOVE WI-FI...
I♡MC2


PROGRAM FILE// LIST
> ANDREI GORLOVICH - TERMINATED
> DENNIS KELLARD
> ARA TANZERIAN
> ZAKIM KARZAI
> AFTAAB LEMAR
> KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB

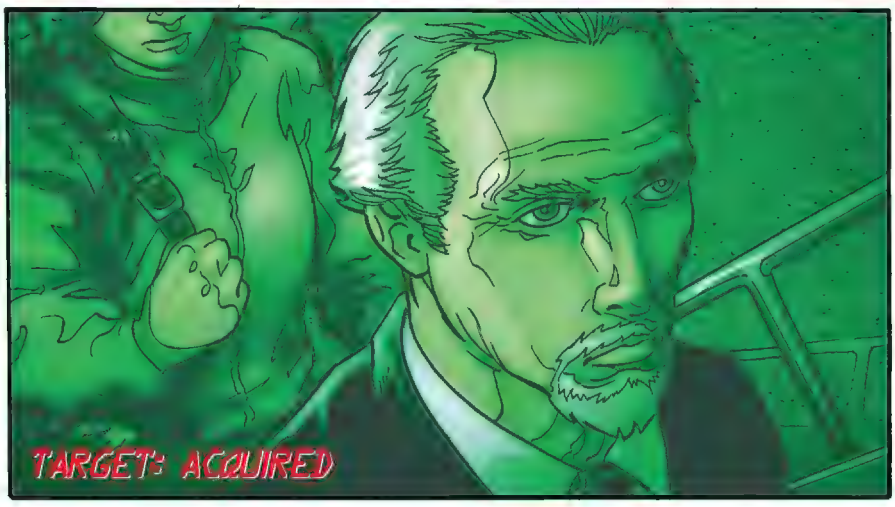

> COMMAND.EXE.TARGET...
> DENNIS KELLARD
> EXECUTE Y/N?


MR. KELLARD, FIRST-CLASS, SEAT 1A...
Male
Caucasian
Age 54
Height 6'3"
Weight 164 lbs
Occupation: Import/Export


CHARLES DE GAULLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARE YOU TRAVELING FOR BUSINESS OR PLEASURE?
DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU'RE ON BOARD.
BUSINESS, THEN.

ALTITUDE: 92.0 M.
STEALTH MODE: ON
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: ACTIVE
TARGET: CONFIRMING...

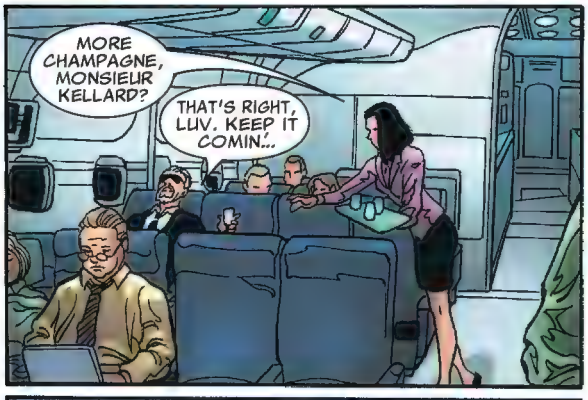
TARGET: CONFIRMING...


TARGET: ACQUIRED

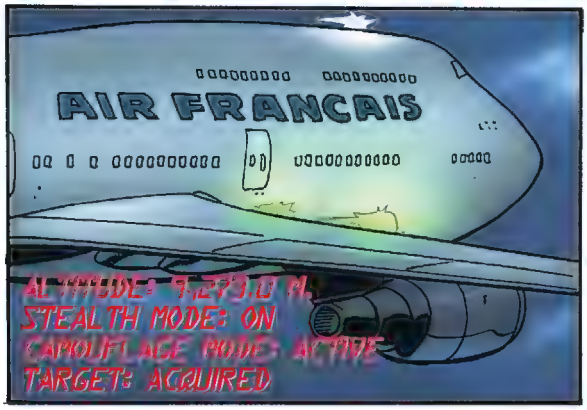
#8

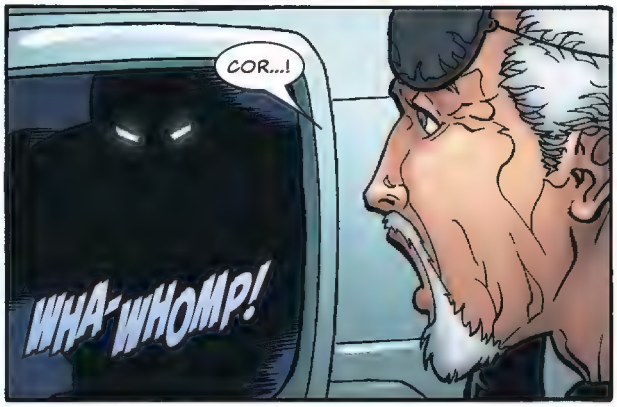
LONDON-BRIXTON
PROGRAM FILE// LIST
> ANDREI GORLOVICH - TERMINATED
> DENNIS KELLARD
> ARA TANZERIAN
> ZAKIM KARZAI
> AFTAAB LEMAR
> KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB
I ♥ MC2
THE JAM
THE VERVE

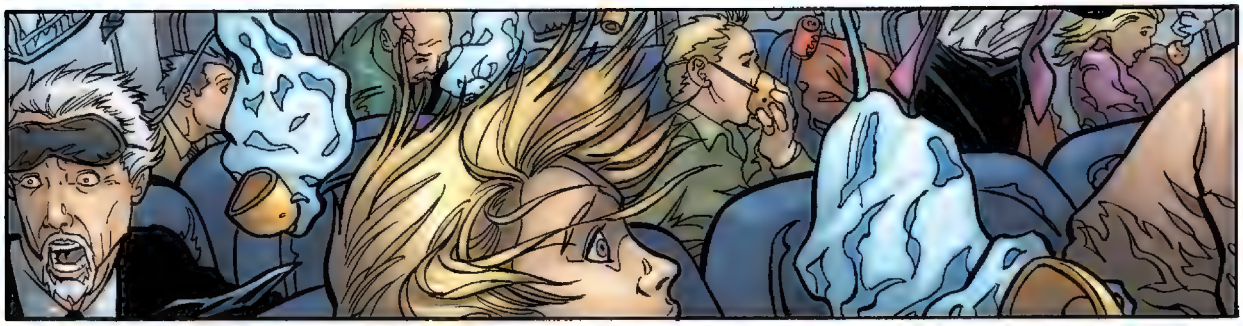
OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC
> COMMAND.EXE TARGET...
> DENNIS KELLARD
> EXECUTE Y/N?
> Y
> AWAITING CONFIRMATION...

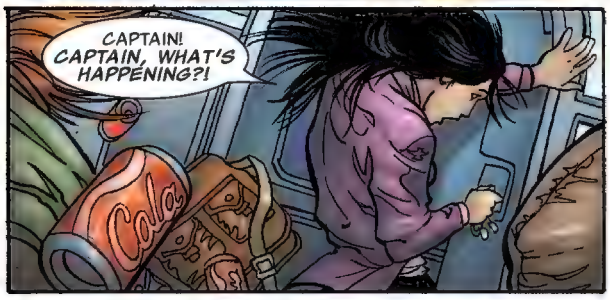

MORE CHAMPAGNE, MONSIEUR KELLARD?
THAT'S RIGHT, LUV. KEEP IT COMIN'...

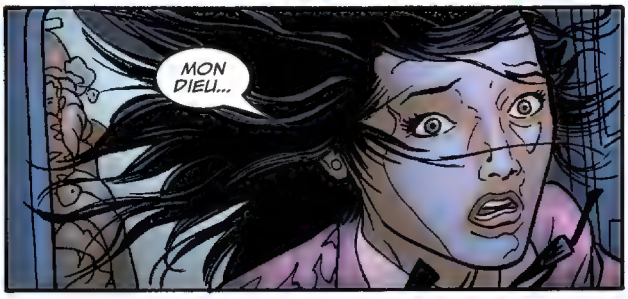
...IT'S STILL FREE, IN'NIT?


AIR FRANCAIS
STEALTH MODE: ON
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: ACTIVE
TARGET: ACQUIRED


COR...!
WHA-WHOMP!




CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
Coke


MON DIEU...

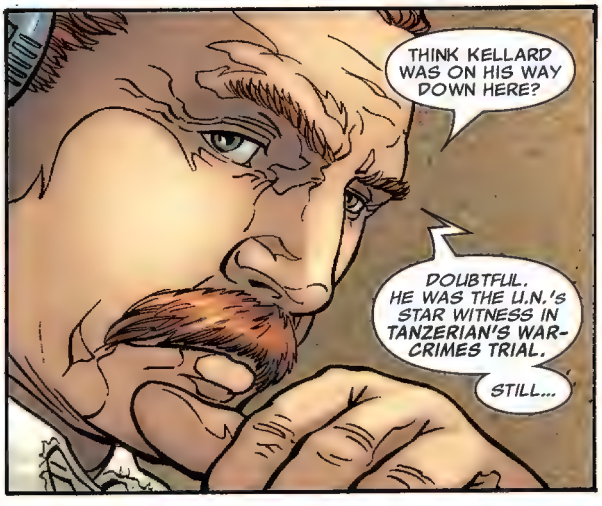
> DENNIS KELLARD-TERMINATED
AIR FRAN

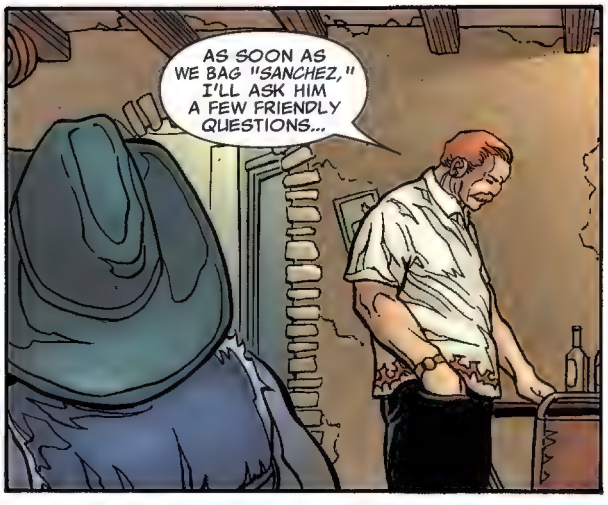
NORTH-NORTHEAST OF CALI, COLOMBIA
THEY GOT NINETEEN GUARDS, THERMAL AND PRESSURE SENSORS 100 YARDS OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER...
...AUTOMATED TURRETS ARMED WITH SIXTY-CALS, VIDEO, MOTION DETECTORS, DOGS. IN OTHER WORDS...
...JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE.
CANTINA
EL BURRO SUCIO
ROGER THAT. MAINTAIN YOUR POSITIONS UNTIL MY NEXT TRANSMISSION, OVER OUT.
NEW YORK
NOTHING BUT GREEN LIGHTS DOWN HERE, NICK.
YOU'RE CLEAR TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS AT 0200 GIVEN CURRENT STATUS.
GIVE ME A HOLLER AS SOON AS YOU PUT "SEÑOR SANCHEZ" TO BED. I'M GONNA NEED YOU UP HERE AY-SAP.
EYES ONLY

WE GOTTA OVERSEE SALVAGE OPERATIONS AND THE INVESTIGATION ON THAT AIR FRANCAIS FLIGHT, WENT DOWN OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC.
HELL, NICK. ISN'T THAT THE F.A.A.'S JOB?
NORMALLY, YEAH. BUT THE PRESIDENT WANTS S.H.I.E.L.D. ON IT. DIRECT EXECUTIVE ORDER.
ONE OF THE PASSENGERS WAS A PERSON OF INTEREST.

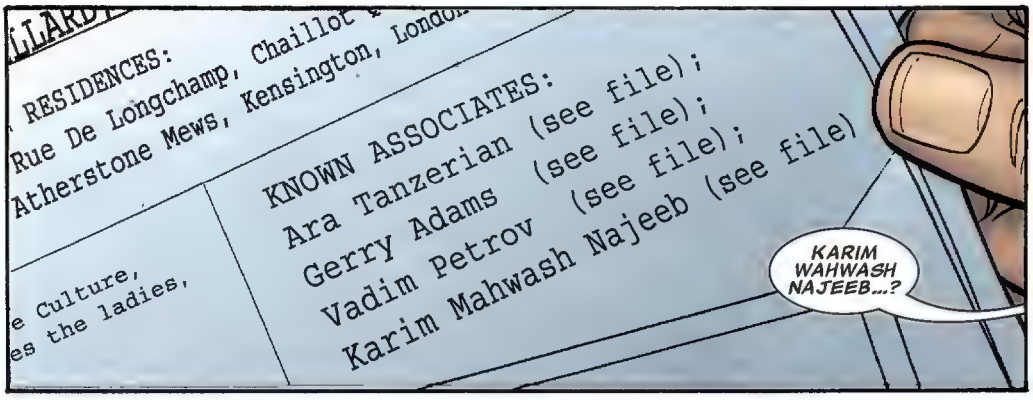
ONE DENNIS KELLARD.
THE ARMS MERCHANT?
AMONG OTHER THINGS. CLASS-A WEASEL. BEEN RUNNING RPGS OUT OF SYRIA TO THE BAD GUYS VIA THE SILK ROAD.

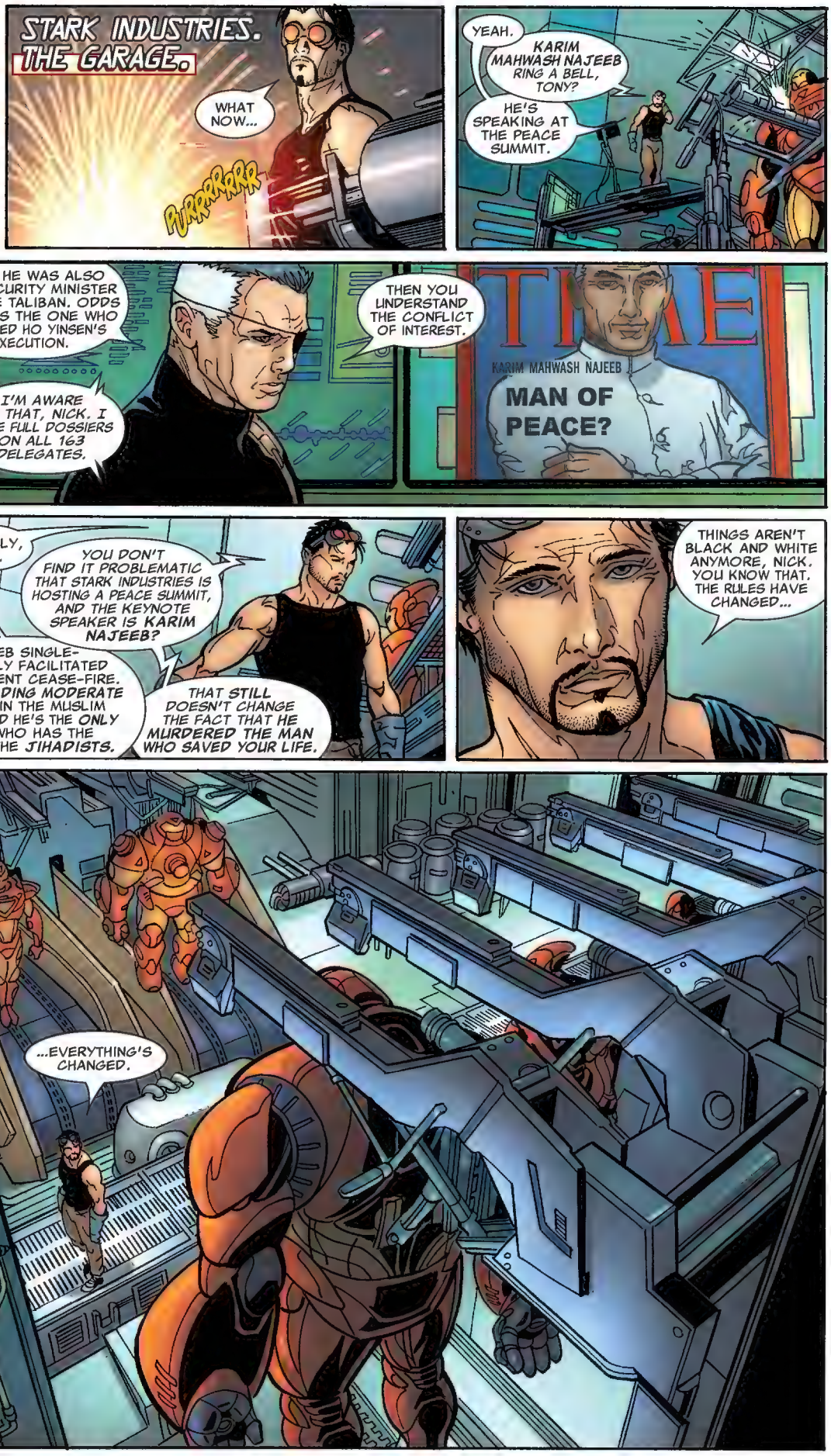
MADE A PILE OF DOUGH REVERSE-ENGINEERING STARK'S SENTINEL LANDMINES AND BROKERING THEM THROUGH YOUR BOY, MR. TANZERIAN.
ALIAS "SEÑOR SANCHEZ."


THINK KELLARD WAS ON HIS WAY DOWN HERE?
DOUBTFUL. HE WAS THE U.N.'S STAR WITNESS IN TANZERIAN'S WAR-CRIMES TRIAL.
STILL...


AS SOON AS WE BAG "SANCHEZ," I'LL ASK HIM A FEW FRIENDLY QUESTIONS...

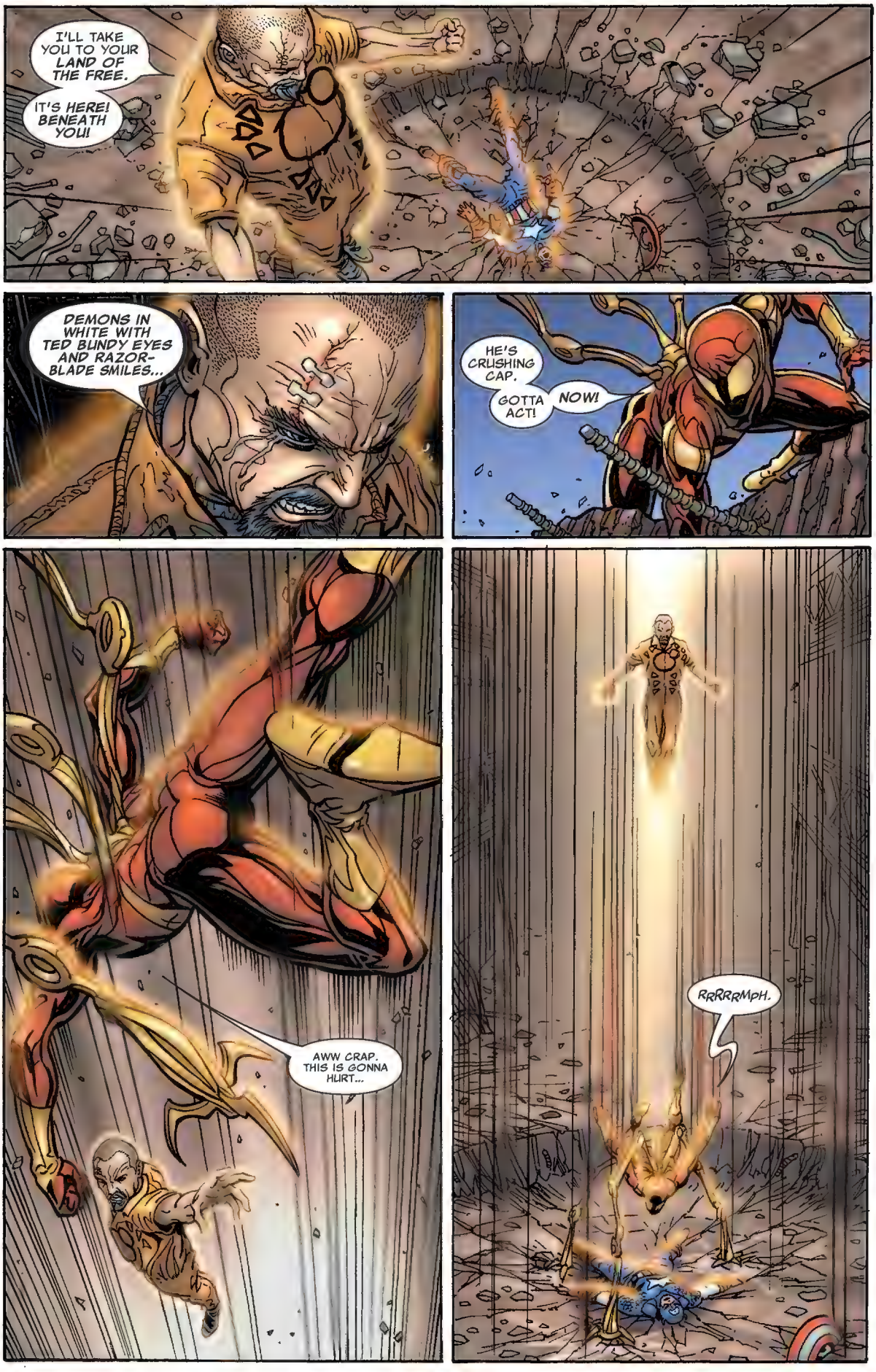
EYES ONLY

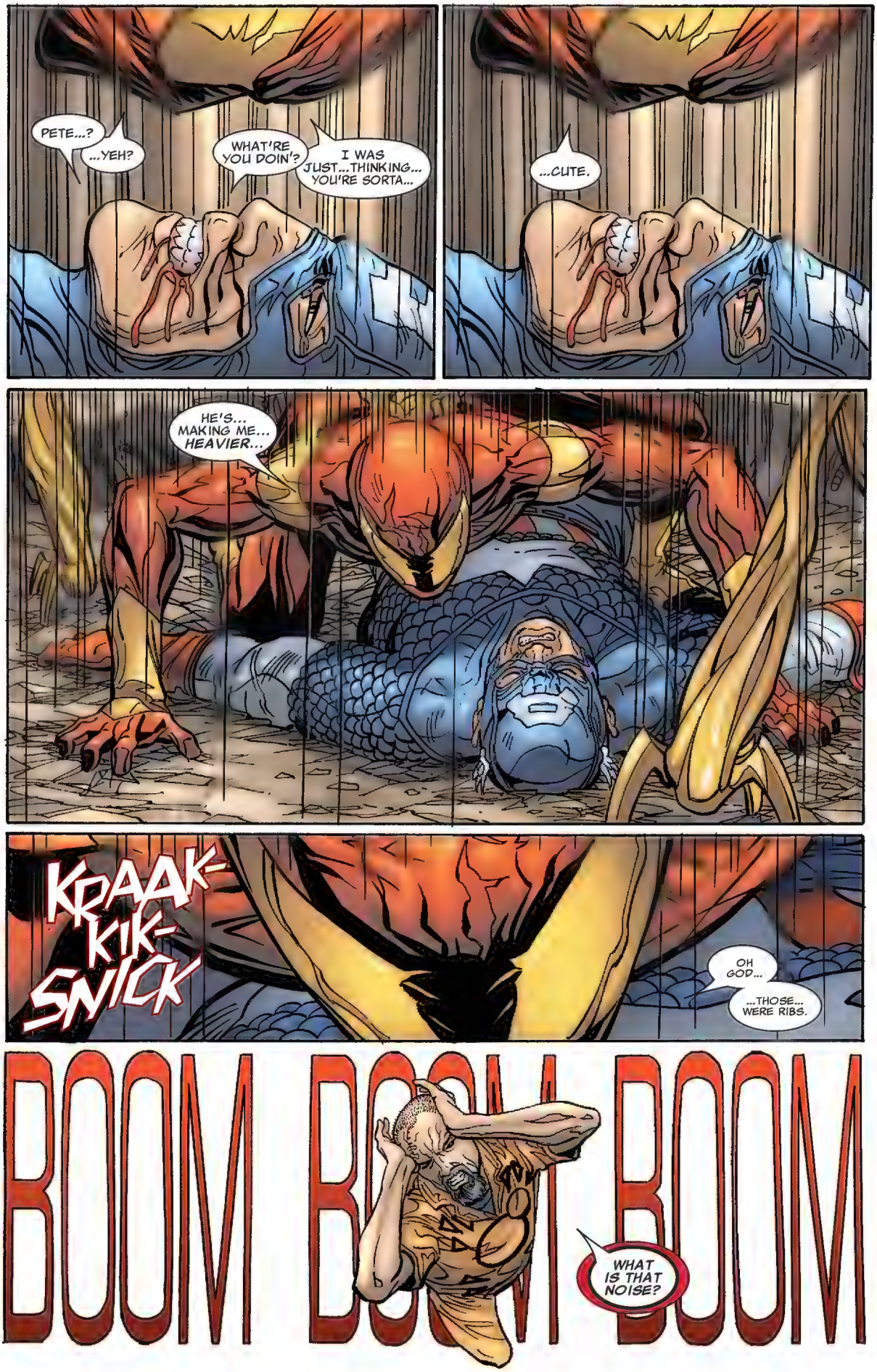

RESIDENCES:
Rue De Longchamp, Chaillot
Atherstone Mews, Kensington, Londo
KNOWN ASSOCIATES:
Ara Tanzerian (see file);
Gerry Adams (see file);
Vadim Petrov (see file);
Karim Mahwash Najeeb (see file)
e Culture,
es the ladies,
KARIM WAHWASH NAJEEB...?


STARK INDUSTRIES.
THE GARAGE.
WHAT NOW...
PUPPPPPP
YEAH.
KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB RING A BELL, TONY?
HE'S SPEAKING AT THE PEACE SUMMIT.
YEAH. HE WAS ALSO THE SECURITY MINISTER FOR THE TALIBAN. ODDS ARE HE'S THE ONE WHO ORDERED HO YINSEN'S EXECUTION.
I'M AWARE OF THAT, NICK. I HAVE FULL DOSSIERS ON ALL 163 DELEGATES.
THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST.
TIME
KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB
MAN OF PEACE?
FRANKLY, NO.
YOU DON'T FIND IT PROBLEMATIC THAT STARK INDUSTRIES IS HOSTING A PEACE SUMMIT, AND THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS KARIM NAJEEB?
NAJEEB SINGLE-HANDEDLY FACILITATED THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE. HE'S A LEADING MODERATE VOICE IN THE MUSLIM WORLD AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE EAR OF THE JIHADISTS.
THAT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT HE MURDERED THE MAN WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE.
THINGS AREN'T BLACK AND WHITE ANYMORE, NICK. YOU KNOW THAT. THE RULES HAVE CHANGED...
...EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.

THE RAFT.
SUPERHUMAN PENITENTIARY.
BREAKOUT IN PROGRESS.
NEW AVENGERS HAVE ENGAGED.
STAND ASIDE THAT I MAY FORGIVE THEE!
THIS MADNESS! THIS FOLLY!
YOU DARE TO OPPOSE A FORCE OF NATURE? TO CRUSH ME? TO BRING ME TO MY KNEES? TO BEND ME TO YOUR WILL?
FOR THESE SINS, YOU WILL SUFFER!

TATA TATATA TATA
FOOLS! DO YOU NOT SEE WHAT YOU SO DILIGENTLY GUARD? NOT A PRISON, BUT A FACTORY!
FALL BACK!
PLAYTIME'S OVER, GRAVITON.
NO! CAN'T YOU SEE?
THIS IS WHERE THE BEGINNING LIVES!
YOU FOOL! YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SHIELD! ANOTHER SHIELD!
KER RAC
UHN!


I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR LAND OF THE FREE.
IT'S HERE! BENEATH YOU!
DEMONS IN WHITE WITH TED BUNDY EYES AND RAZOR-BLADE SMILES...
HE'S CRUSHING CAP.
GOTTA ACT!
NOW!
AWW CRAP. THIS IS GONNA HURT...
RRRRRMPH.

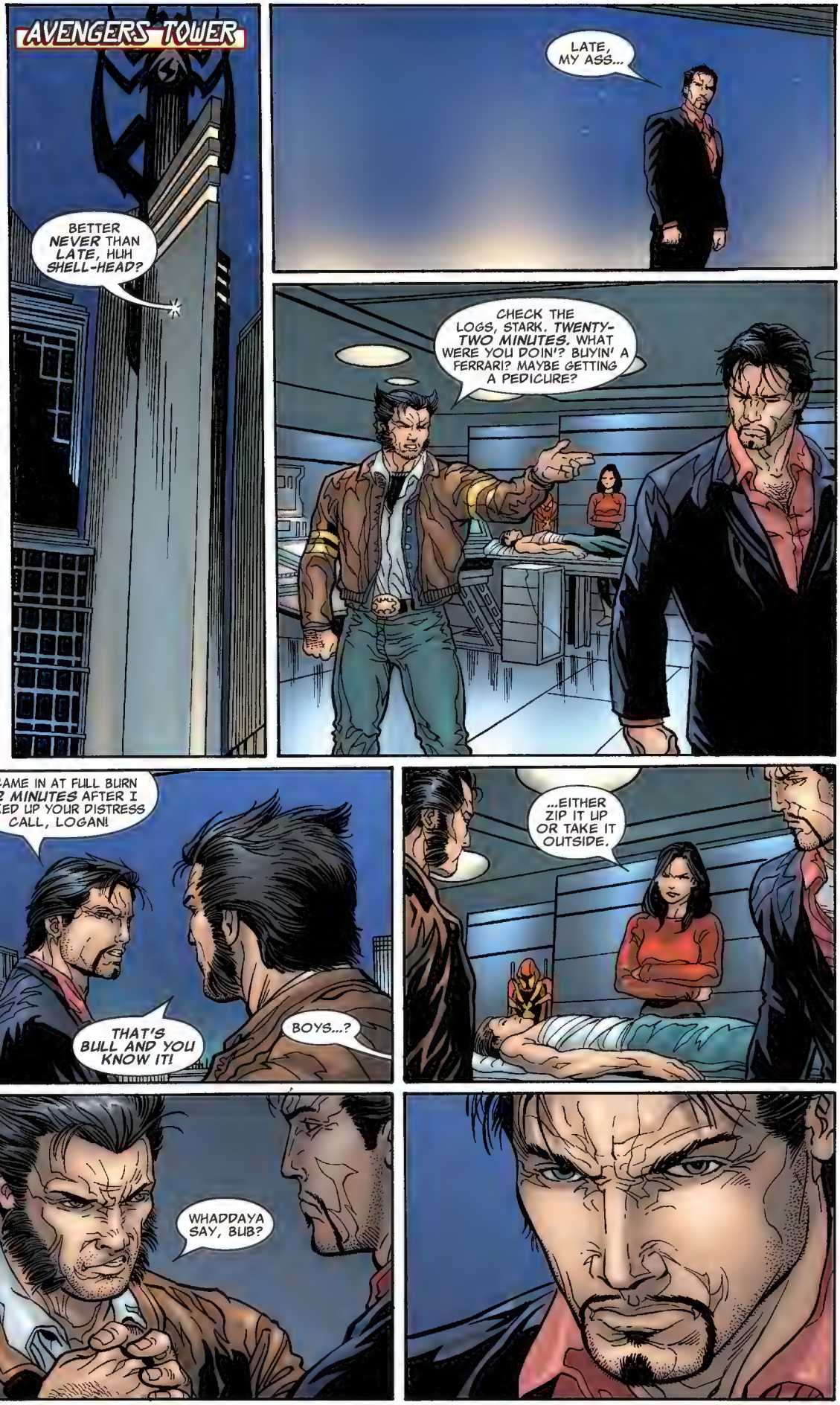

PETE...?
...YEH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
I WAS JUST...THINKING... YOU'RE SORTA...
...CUTE.
HE'S... MAKING ME... HEAVIER...
KRAAK- KIK- SNICK
OH GOD...
...THOSE... WERE RIBS.
BOOM BOOM BOOM
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

IT'S CALLED MACH-THREE, DR. HALL.

MAN DOWN!
PETE...
WE NEED A MEDIC!
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...
...A FOOL'S SACRIFICE... FOR A LIE...

YOU MONSTER!
GAAAAHHH!
NO... DON'T...
THAT'S ENOUGH...!
POWER OUTPUT: 44%
TARGET TEMP: 4,327°K
...PLEASE...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
POWER OUTPUT: 73%
TARGET TEMP: 10,073°K
I...SAID... THAT'S ENOUGH!

-URK!-
TONY!
SPIDER-MAN...?
HE'S ALIVE. HE'LL BE OKAY. HE'S SEEN WORSE.
ARE YOU--
I'M FINE.
RIGHT AS RAIN.

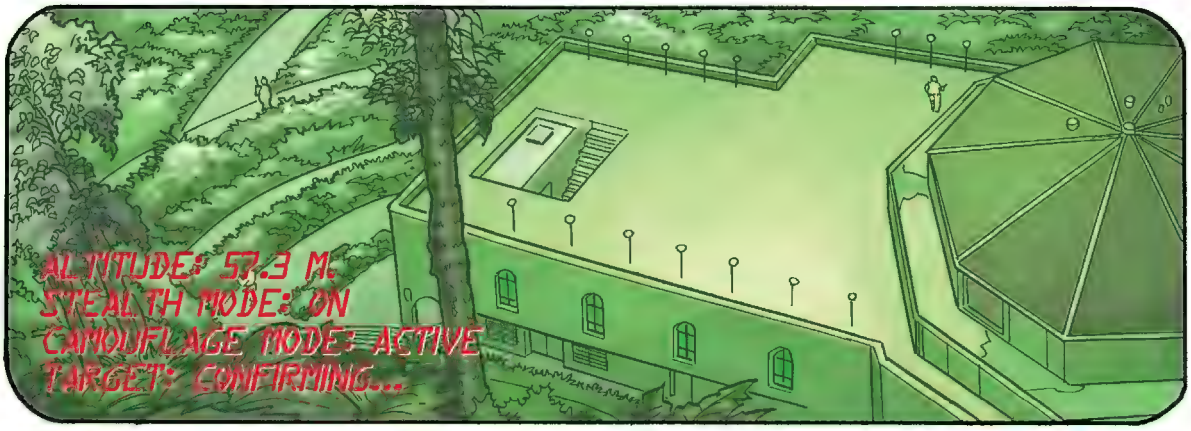

AVENGERS TOWER
BETTER NEVER THAN LATE, HUH SHELL-HEAD?
LATE, MY ASS...
CHECK THE LOGS, STARK. TWENTY-TWO MINUTES. WHAT WERE YOU DOIN'? BUYIN' A FERRARI? MAYBE GETTING A PEDICURE?
I CAME IN AT FULL BURN 7.2 MINUTES AFTER I PICKED UP YOUR DISTRESS CALL, LOGAN!
THAT'S BULL AND YOU KNOW IT!
BOYS...?
...EITHER ZIP IT UP OR TAKE IT OUTSIDE.
WHADDAYA SAY, BUB?

SHHHWICK!
WHAT DO I SAY?
I SAY YOU TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT...
THEN YOU WATCH ME HEAL...
...THEN I TAKE MY BEST SHOT.
BUB.
NOW NOW, GENTLEMEN...

...DON'T GET ALL HOT AND BOTHERED ON MY ACCOUNT.
LOGAN? WHYN'T YOU HEAD ON DOWN TO THE BLUE MOON AND ORDER US A COUPLA TALL DRAFTS.
ERM, YUH...SURE THING.
I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN...
SO, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, JESSICA--
WHAP!
SNAP OUT OF IT, ROMEO!

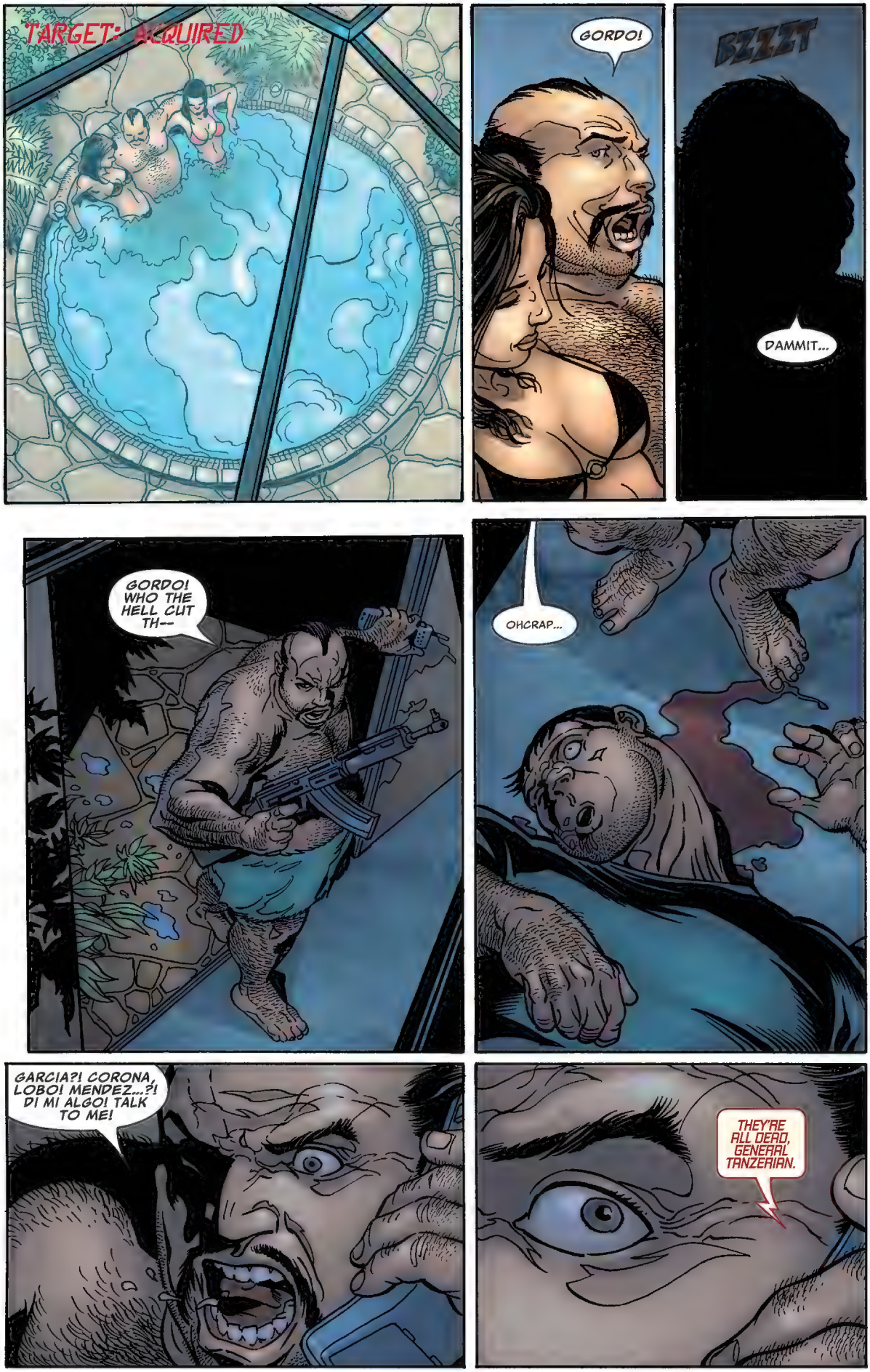
HIM, I UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU, TONY. WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
I HAD TO KICK OUT ENOUGH PHEROMONES TO SEDATE AL SHARPTON!
I'M SORRY. HE JUST--
HE JUST HAPPENS TO BE RIGHT! YOU WERE LATE!
THAT'S CRAP, JESS. I CHANNEL DATA, EMERGENCY SIGNALS AND SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE FROM EVERY LAW-ENFORCEMENT, MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN THE WORLD! NO TEXT. NO EMAIL...
DIRECTLY INTO MY HEAD!
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO MY OWN TEAM'S DISTRESS SIGNAL?! FROM A DEVICE I DESIGNED IN JUNIOR HIGH?!!!
BUT THE LOGS--
SCREW THE LOGS! YOU KNOW THAT COMBAT MESSES WITH YOUR SENSE OF TIME. THINK ABOUT IT, JESS. WHAT'S MORE LIKELY...?
A GLITCH IN THE LOG'S INTERNAL CLOCK...
...OR ME, BLOWING YOU GUYS OFF ON A CODE RED?
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
WE SHOULD RUN SOME DIAGNOSTICS ON THE E.R.S.
I INITIATED A CHECK TEN MINUTES AGO. BESIDES...
...DON'T YOU HAVE A HOT DATE AT THE BLUE MOON?

NORTH-NORTHEAST OF
CALI, COLOMBIA


ALTITUDE: 57.3 M.
STEALTH MODE: ON
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: ACTIVE
TARGET: CONFIRMING...

ZZZRIIIPP

THUNCK!
DIOS MI--
SCHLICK!
TEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
OH, SEÑOR SANCHEZ! JOO SPILLED YOUR MARGARITA!
GORDO! MAS TEQUILA!


TARGET: ACQUIRED
GORDO!
BZZZT
DAMMIT...
GORDO! WHO THE HELL CUT TH--
OHCRAP...
GARCIA?! CORONA, LOBOI MENDEZ...?! DI MI ALGO! TALK TO ME!
THEY'RE ALL DEAD, GENERAL TANZERIAN.

TATATATATATATA
WE GOT AUTOMATIC FIRE DOWN THERE...
HELL...
ALPHA, BRAVO! THIS IS DUGAN! GREENLIGHT NOW NOW NOW! WE ARE GOIN' IN HOT!
KERRR-RAASSHHH!
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD...
...ARE YOU GETTING THIS?

INCOMING!!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
ALTITUDE: 123.3 M.
STEALTH MODE: OFF
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: DEACTIVATED
> ARA TANZERIAN - TERMINATED

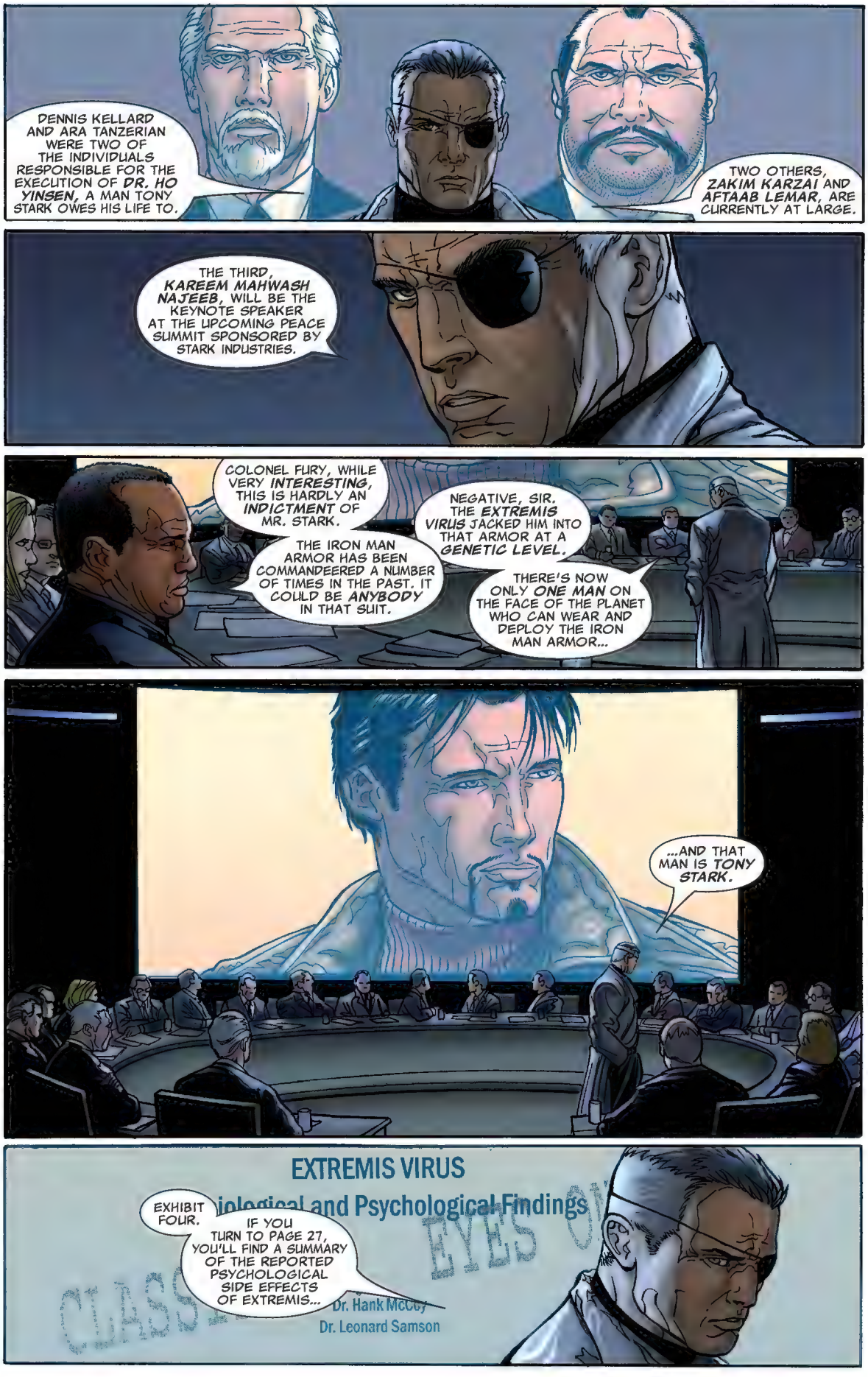
#9

TWENTY-TWO MINUTES...
...GONE.
I'VE RUN DIAGNOSTICS, BROKEN EVERY LINE OF CODE IN THE AVENGERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM PROGRAM. IT WAS PERFECT WHEN I WROTE IT...
...IT'S PERFECT NOW.
WHICH SUGGESTS A GLITCH IN MY ARMOR'S TACTICAL OPERATING SYSTEM...
BUT IT CAN'T BE THE ARMOR...
EVEN IF THERE WAS A BUG IN ITS INTERNAL CLOCK, THERE'S STILL A MAN INSIDE THAT SUIT AND HE'D REMEMBER.
I'D REMEMBER.

AFGHANISTAN, 15 YEARS AGO.
KERR-AAACK
THE EXPLOSION TORE MY LIFE IN HALF. BOILED IT DOWN TO TWO DISTINCT COMPONENTS: BEFORE AND AFTER. I WAS BAPTIZED BY FIRE OF MY OWN DESIGN. THEN THERE WAS DARKNESS...
THEN THERE WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT. A FIGURE. I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE GOD. AND HE SPOKE...
...PUPILS RESPONDING. NO SIGNS OF REJECTION OR INFECTION.
I CAN HEAR YOU, MR. STARK.
YOU ARE ALIVE.
NOT GOD, BUT CLOSE.
DR. HO YINSEN.
FILE H.Y. 9322-B.MPG, PAUSE.
HE SAVED MY LIFE. IN RETURN, I PROMISED WE'D ESCAPE THAT HELL-HOLE. ESCAPE TOGETHER.
UHN...
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, KILLED BUYING ME TIME.
I LEFT HIM BEHIND.
I LEFT YOU BEHIND.
AND NOW, I CAN HEAR THE INCREASING CHATTER IN THE GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. DIGITALLY SCRAMBLED, MOST OF IT ENCRYPTED.
LARGELY INDECIPHERABLE OTHER THAN A FEW PROPER NOUNS--NAMES AND PLACES...
DENNIS KELLARD, ARA TANZERIAN...
...AND ANTHONY STARK, JR.
THE FIRST TWO ARE DEAD. THE THIRD HAS A DAMN GOOD REASON FOR KILLING THEM.

FILE H.Y. 9322-B.MPG, PLAY.
FILE H.Y. 9322-B.MPG, STOP!
POWER DOWN!
TWENTY-TWO MINUTES...

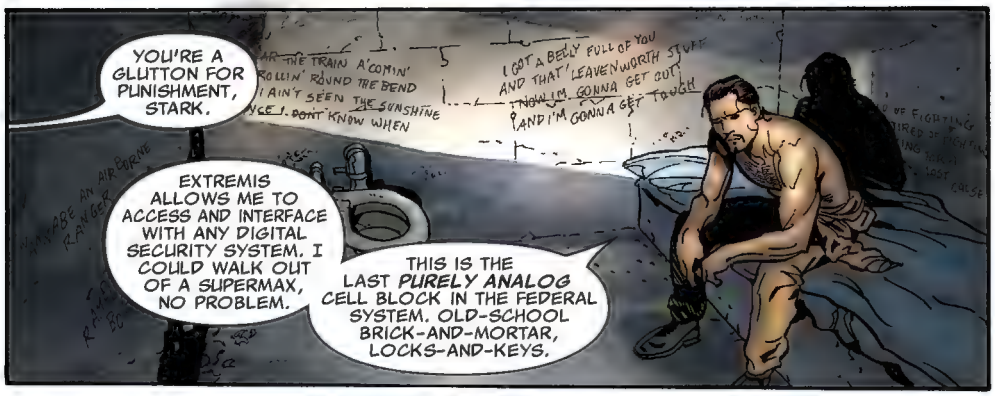
LANGLEY, VIRGINIA
SECRETARY KOONING, LADIES, GENTLEMEN, PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE DISTURBING EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE LED ME AND MY COLLEAGUES TO ONE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION...
...TONY STARK HAS GONE ROGUE.
EXHIBIT ONE: DENNIS KELLARD, TERRORIST, ARMS MERCHANT. KILLED IN A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE CRASH IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.
THE PLANE'S COCKPIT WAS LITERALLY SLICED FROM THE AIRCRAFT WITH THE PRECISION OF AN INDUSTRIAL LASER.
MAGNETIC RESONANCE AND GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY CONFIRM A MOLECULAR SIGNATURE CONSISTENT WITH PROPRIETARY STARK INDUSTRIES TECHNOLOGY.
EXHIBITS TWO AND THREE: ARA TANZERIAN, TERRORIST, FORMER AFGHAN DEPUTY SECURITY CHIEF.
SLAIN AND CRUCIFIED IN HIS FORTIFIED VILLA IN THE MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE CALI, COLOMBIA, WHILE UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D. SURVEILLANCE.
THESE IMAGES WERE INDEPENDENTLY CAPTURED BY MR. TANZERIAN'S SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND A TAC-CAMERA MOUNTED ON ONE OF OUR CHOPPERS.
THEY'VE BEEN VERIFIED BY HALF A DOZEN EYEWITNESSES.


DENNIS KELLARD AND ARA TANZERIAN WERE TWO OF THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF DR. HO YINSEN, A MAN TONY STARK OWES HIS LIFE TO.
TWO OTHERS, ZAKIM KARZAI AND AFTAAB LEMAR, ARE CURRENTLY AT LARGE.
THE THIRD, KAREEM MAHWASH NAJEEB, WILL BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE UPCOMING PEACE SUMMIT SPONSORED BY STARK INDUSTRIES.
COLONEL FURY, WHILE VERY INTERESTING, THIS IS HARDLY AN INDICTMENT OF MR. STARK.
THE IRON MAN ARMOR HAS BEEN COMMANDEERED A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST. IT COULD BE ANYBODY IN THAT SUIT.
NEGATIVE, SIR. THE EXTREMIS VIRUS JACKED HIM INTO THAT ARMOR AT A GENETIC LEVEL.
THERE'S NOW ONLY ONE MAN ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET WHO CAN WEAR AND DEPLOY THE IRON MAN ARMOR...
...AND THAT MAN IS TONY STARK.
EXTREMIS VIRUS
EXHIBIT FOUR.
IF YOU TURN TO PAGE 27, YOU'LL FIND A SUMMARY OF THE REPORTED PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE EFFECTS OF EXTREMIS...
Dr. Hank McCoy
Dr. Leonard Samson

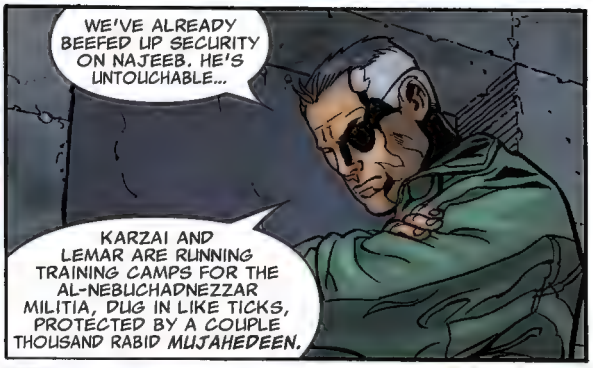
ANIMAL TESTS SHOW INCIDENTS OF PARANOIA, INCREASED HOSTILITY, VIOLENT IDEATION AND A MARKED TENDENCY TOWARD SOCIAL ISOLATION...
...ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN MR. STARK AND ATTESTED TO BY A NUMBER OF HIS COLLEAGUES.
SO, LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT YOU STRAIGHT, COLONEL.
YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT TONY STARK, PERHAPS THE MOST INGENIOUS, MOST PROLIFIC WEAPONS DESIGNER IN HISTORY...
...A MAN WHO IS CURRENTLY IN POSSESSION OF A SUIT OF ARMOR THAT RENDERS HIM VIRTUALLY INVINCIBLE AND PACKS ADEQUATE FIREPOWER TO EFFORTLESSLY ENGAGE AND DESTROY SEVERAL BATTALIONS...
...A MAN WHO HAPPENS TO PLAY GOLF ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THIS MAN IS A BAD GUY?
NO, SIR. I'M NOT SUGGESTING IT...
...I'M CONFIRMING IT.
DEAR LORD...

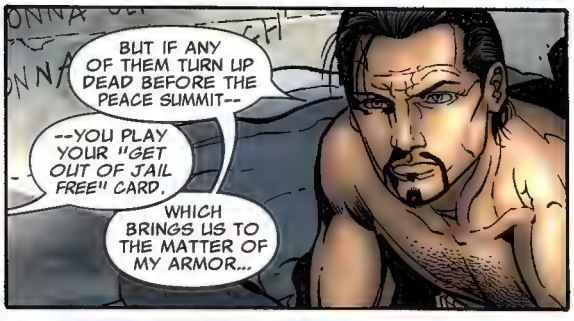
INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PEACE SUMMIT HAS BEEN CANCELLED--
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SECRETARY KOONING...
I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING FOR THE LAST 45 MINUTES. THE EVIDENCE IS COMPELLING AND INDISPUTABLE.
BUT YOUR CONCLUSIONS ARE WRONG.
I'M INNOCENT.
THE PEACE SUMMIT IS **PARAMOUNT**. IT **MUST** PROCEED AS SCHEDULED. THERE'S SIMPLY TOO MUCH AT STAKE.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY, AND I HAVE NO TIME TO CLEAR MY NAME.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

FORT LEAVENWORTH
PENITENTIARY--S-BLOCK
03 1963
HEY, GIRLS! LOOKS LIKE MEAT'S BACK ON THE MENU!
THIS AIN'T NO CLUB FED!
YO, RICHY RICH! YOU GOT ANY SPARE LAWYERS I CAN BORROW?!

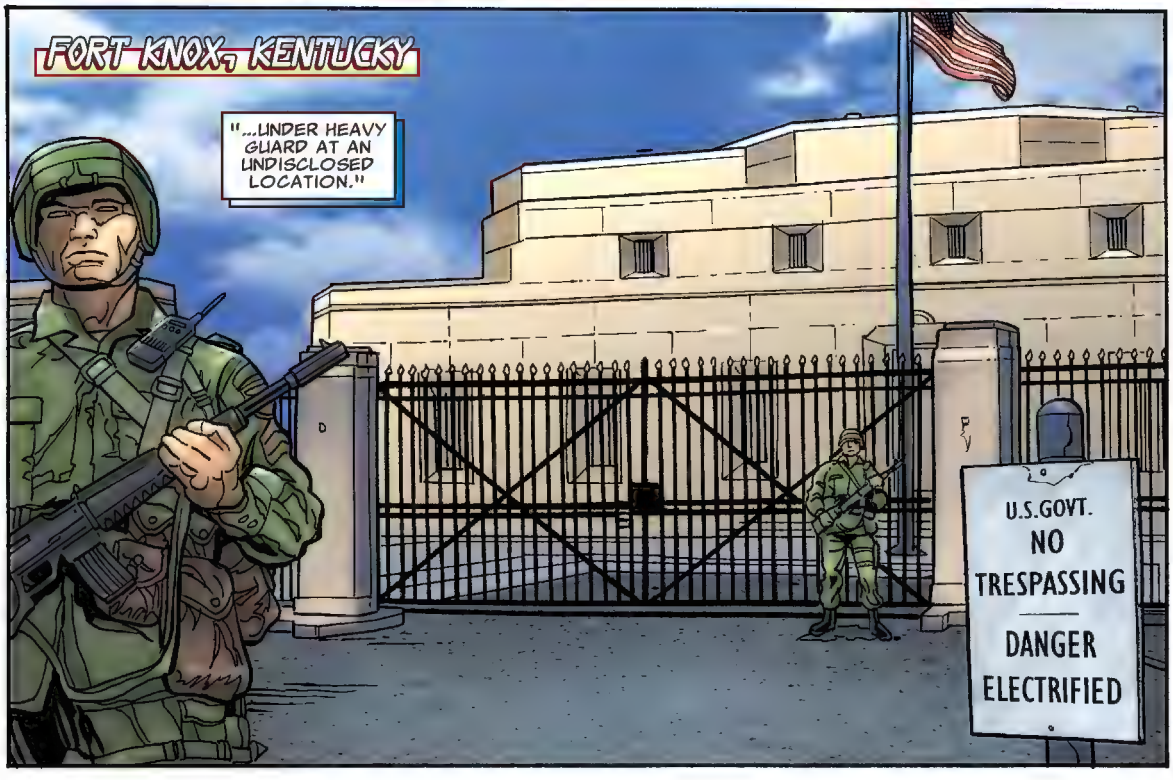

YOU'RE A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, STARK.
EXTREMIS ALLOWS ME TO ACCESS AND INTERFACE WITH ANY DIGITAL SECURITY SYSTEM. I COULD WALK OUT OF A SUPERMAX, NO PROBLEM.
THIS IS THE LAST PURELY ANALOG CELL BLOCK IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM. OLD-SCHOOL BRICK-AND-MORTAR, LOCKS-AND-KEYS.

THERE CAN'T BE ANY QUESTION REGARDING MY WHEREABOUTS WHEN THE NEXT ASSASSINATION GOES DOWN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN PROVE MY INNOCENCE.

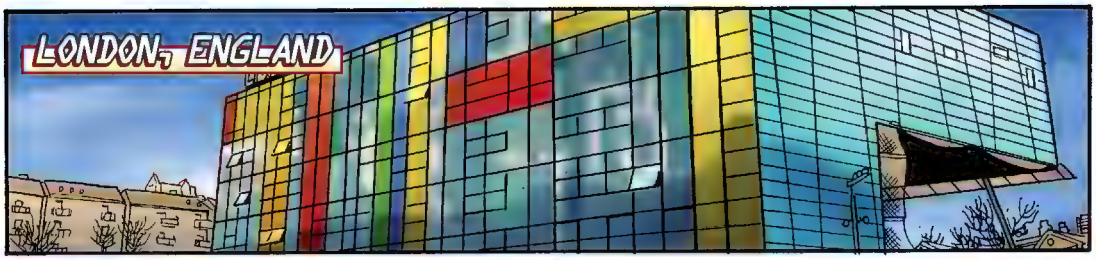

WE'VE ALREADY BEEFED UP SECURITY ON NAJEEB. HE'S UNTOUCHABLE...
KARZAI AND LEMAR ARE RUNNING TRAINING CAMPS FOR THE AL-NEBUCHADNEZZAR MILITIA, DUG IN LIKE TICKS, PROTECTED BY A COUPLE THOUSAND RABID MUJAHEDEEN.

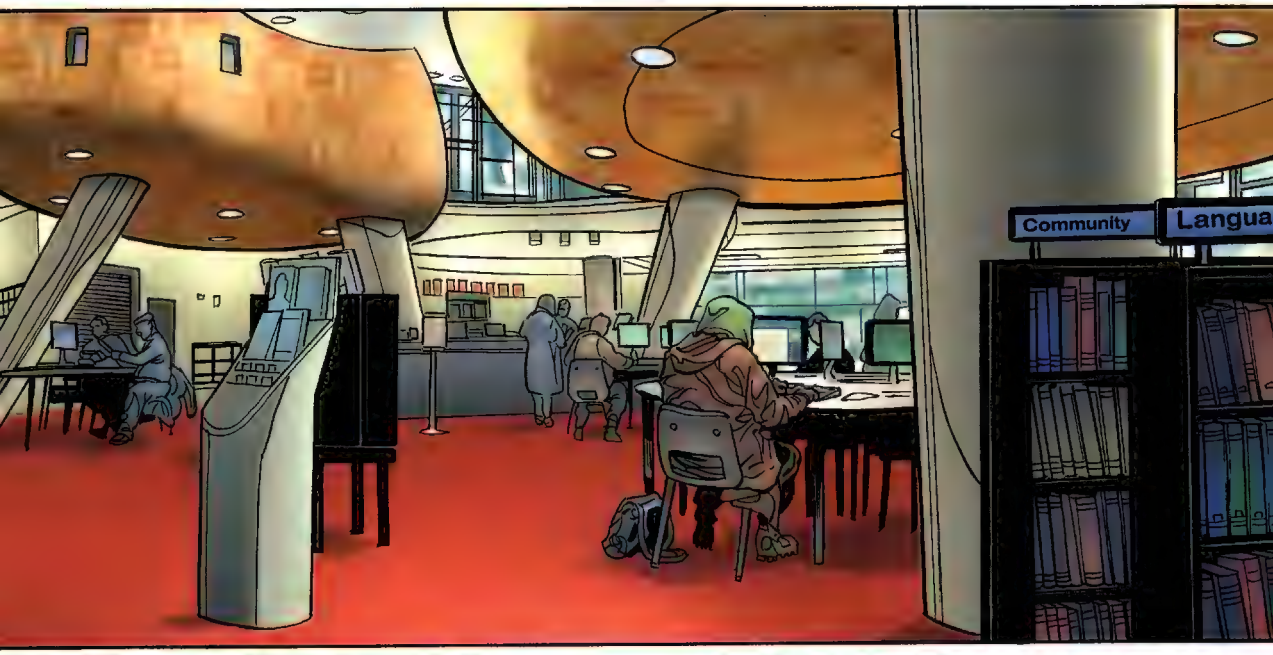

BUT IF ANY OF THEM TURN UP DEAD BEFORE THE PEACE SUMMIT--
--YOU PLAY YOUR "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD.
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE MATTER OF MY ARMOR...

IT'S SAFE AND SOUND...


FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY
"...UNDER HEAVY GUARD AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION."
U.S.GOVT.
NO TRESPASSING
DANGER ELECTRIFIED

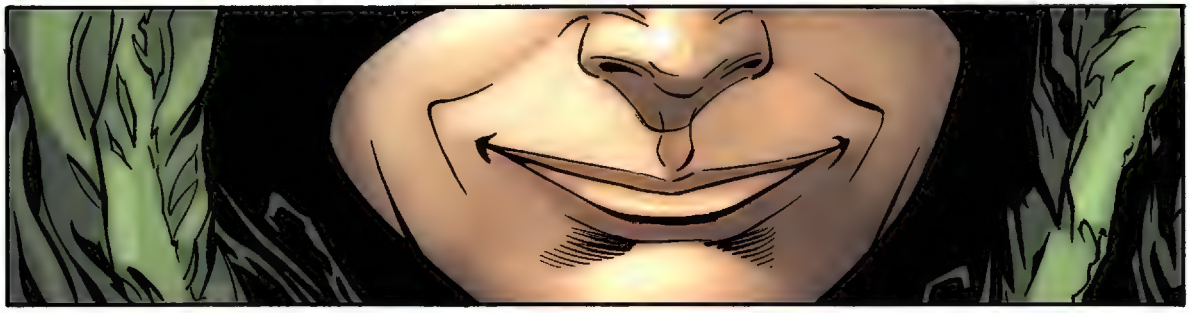
I HEAR THE TRAIN A' COMIN'
IT'S ROLLIN' ROUND THE
AND I AIN'T SEEN
SINCE I DON'T
DAMN FINE OPPORTUNITY FOR MY BOYS TO REVERSE-ENGINEER IT.
YOU'RE A REAL FUNNY GUY, NICK.
I LIKE TO THINK SO.
I GOT A BELLY FULL OF
AND THAT LEAVENWORTH ST
GONNA GET OUT
GET TOUGH
I'M TIRED OF FIGHTIN
FIGHTING FOR A
LOST CAU
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, IF ANY GENIUSES AT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT GET A MIND TO TAKE IT OUT FOR A JOYRIDE, THEY SHOULD USE A TEST PILOT WHO'S EXPENDABLE.
VERY EXPENDABLE.
GIVEN YOU THEIR ALL
STAGGER AND FALL
IT'S NOT
HEART
THANKS FOR THE SAFETY TIP, BUT I THINK WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT IN THE SUITCASE UNTIL YOU GET SPRUNG.
GUARD!
NICK...
YEAH...?
YOU THEIR ALL
AND FALL
NOT EASY
HEART AGAINST
MAD BUGGER'S WALL
SOME
KLICK-TUNK
I'M INNOCENT.
TOUGH
TIRED OF FIG
M TIRED OF FIGH
IGHTING FOR A
LOST CAU
I HOPE SO.





PROGRAM FILE// LIST
> ANDREI GORLOVICH - TERMINATED
> DENNIS KELLARD - TERMINATED
> ARA TANZERIAN - TERMINATED
> ZAKIM KARZAI
> AFTAAB LEMAR
> KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB

> COMMAND.EXE.TARGET . . .
> ZAKIM KARZAI
> AFTAAB LEMAR
> EXECUTE Y/N?
> Y
> AWAITING CONFIRMATION ...



FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY
THUD!

SOUTHERN IRAQ
LOOK AT 'EM DOWN THERE, MAN, IT'D BE NICE TO ORDER A MISSILE STRIKE...
YEAH. YA GOTTA LOVE THE "PEACE PROCESS." THE MINUTE THEY CALL A DAMN CEASE-FIRE, THE RATS CRAWL OUTTA THEIR HOLES TO PLAY.
I'VE GOT OVER FORTY T-72S ON MANEUVERS, MOBILE ANTIAIRCRAFT BATTERIES, ARTILLERY UNITS ON THE GROUND--
SIKORSKIES. DAMN! THEY GOT AIR POWER.
"I'M CALLING AT LEAST A COUPLE THOUSAND HOSTILES DOWN THERE, RUNNIN' DRILLS."
SARGE, I GOT A BOGIE ON MY L.R.R.!
NO IDENTIFIERS.
IT'S TOO SMALL TO BE AN AIRCRAFT. MISSILE?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S COMING IN HOTTER'N HELL...

"I'M CLOCKIN' IT AT MACH 8.7!"

LEMAR! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
WE ARE BEING FIRED UPON, GENERAL KARZA!!
ALL HELL'S BREAKIN' LOOSE DOWN THERE!
GET ME A SECURE LINE TO COLONEL FURY!

BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP
YEAH, WHAT?
FIRE!

WHOA...
YES, COLONEL, IMMEDIATELY, SIR...
DEPLOY A *PREDATOR DRONE!* NOW! I WANNA SEE WHAT WE'RE *DEALING* WITH DOWN THERE!

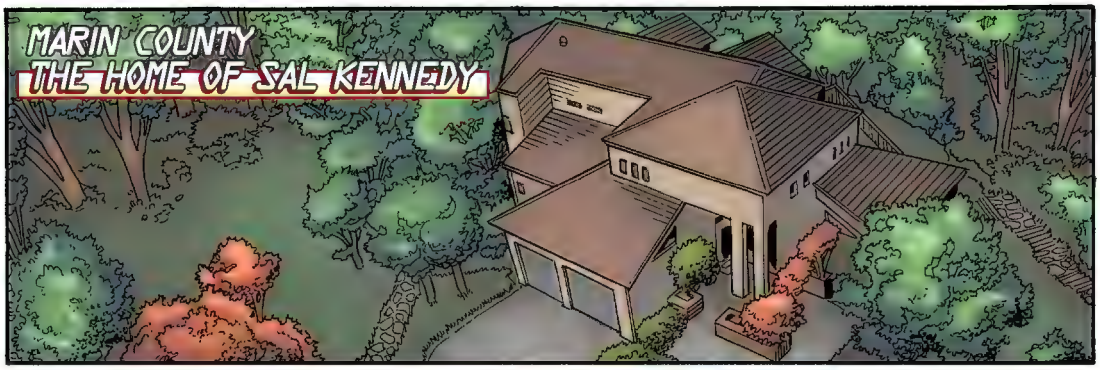
WITHDRAW, YOU IDIOT DOG! GO! GO! NOW!!!
ALTITUDE: 0.0 M.
STEALTH MODE: OFF
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: DEACTIVATED
TARGET: ACQUIRED

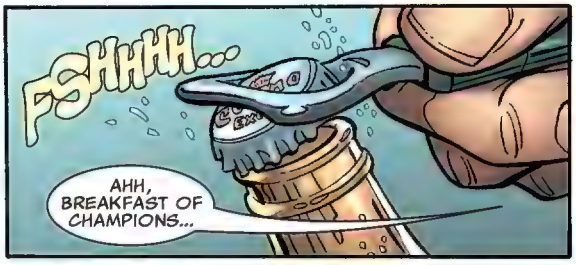
> ZAKIM KARZAI--TERMINATED
> AFTAAB LEMAR--TERMINATED

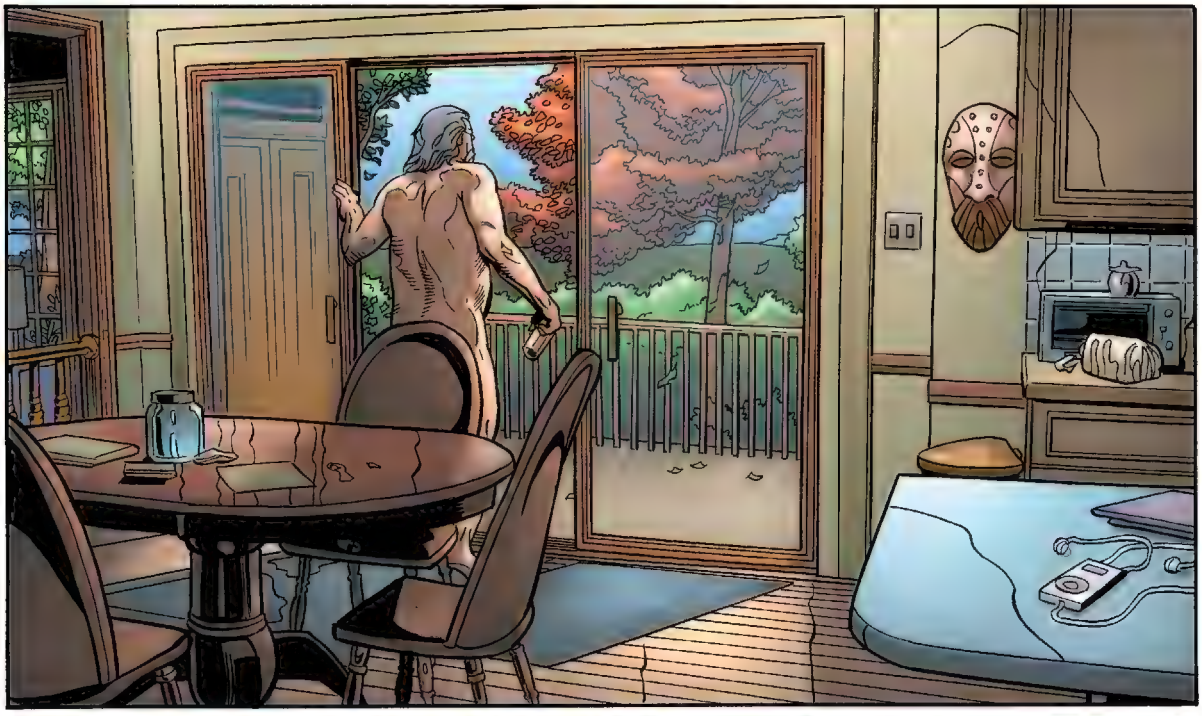
UNH...
CHIK-
PSHHHHH
MY GOD...
...WHAT HAVE I DONE?

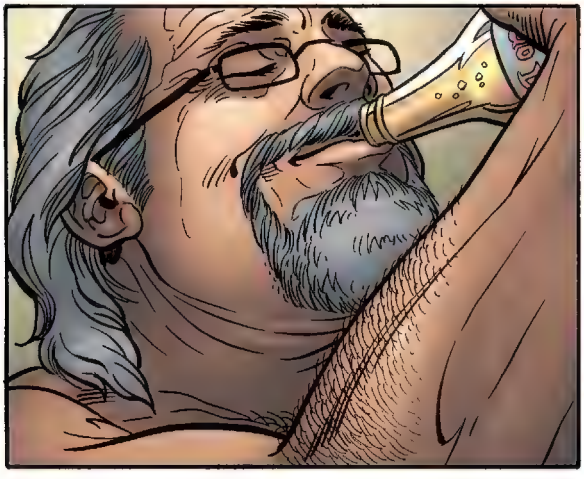
YOU'RE SURE, WARDEN?
YESSIR. I'M LOOKING IN STARK'S CELL RIGHT NOW...
...THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT A BIG DAMN HOLE IN THE WALL.
INCOMING PRIORITY MESSAGE FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. COLONEL FURY. VOICEPRINT I.D. AUTHENTICATED.
CONTENT AS FOLLOWS: IRON MAN HAS BREACHED CONTAINMENT AND IS CONSIDERED A PRIORITY 5 FUGITIVE.
SANCTION HAS BEEN GRANTED TO THE SENTRY TO INITIATE SEARCH AND NEUTRALIZATION.

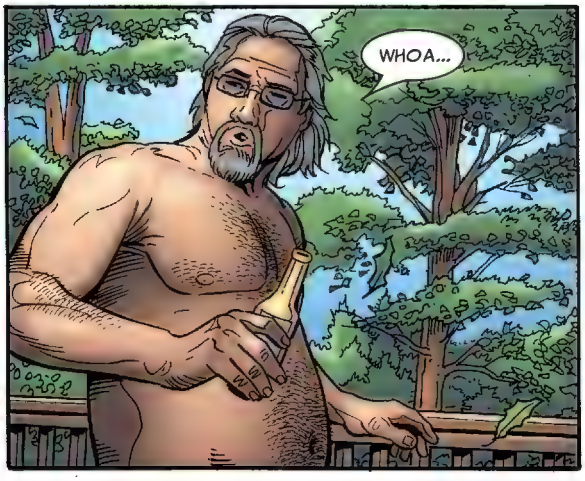
#10


MARIN COUNTY
THE HOME OF SAL KENNEDY

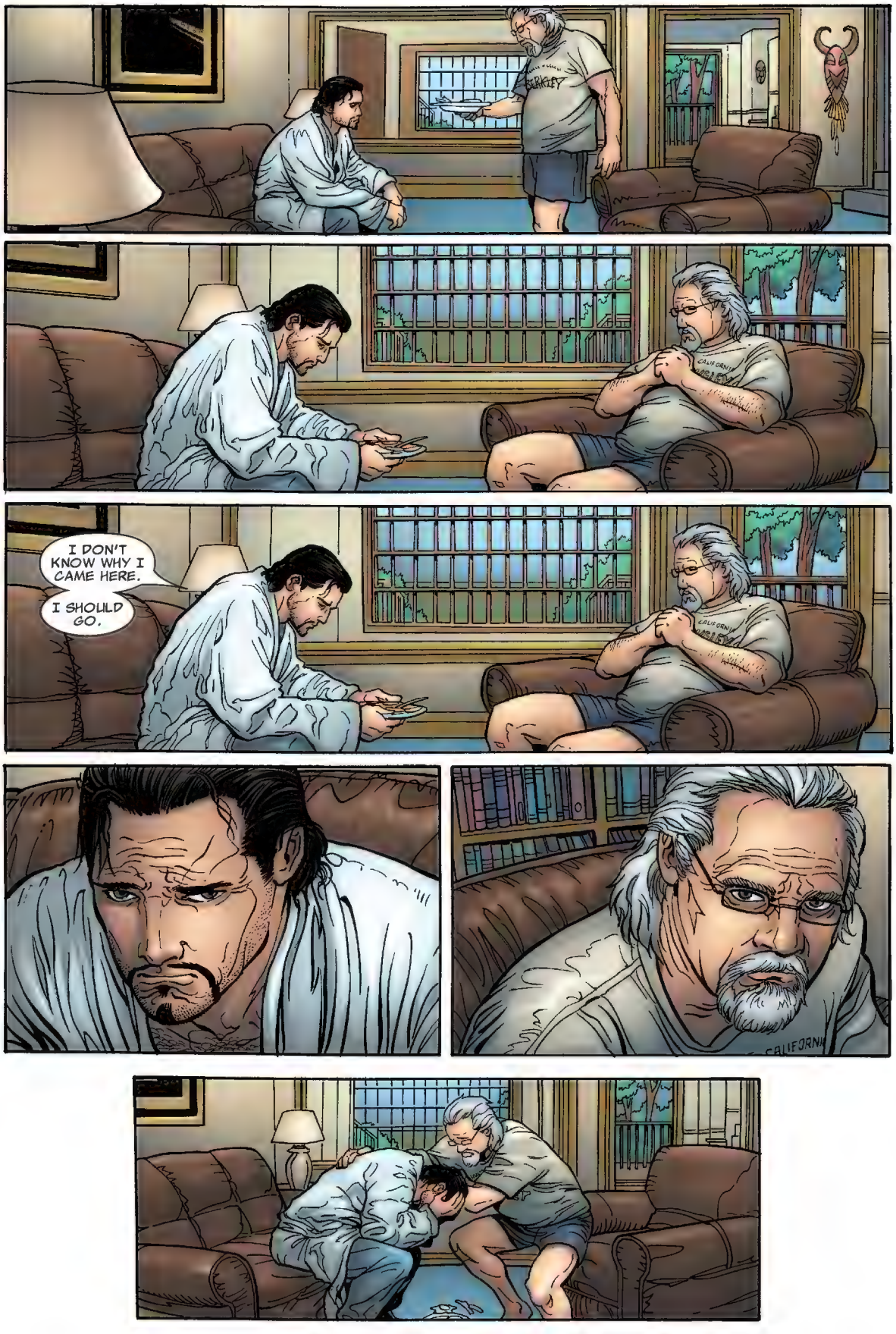

FSHHHH...
AHH, BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS...

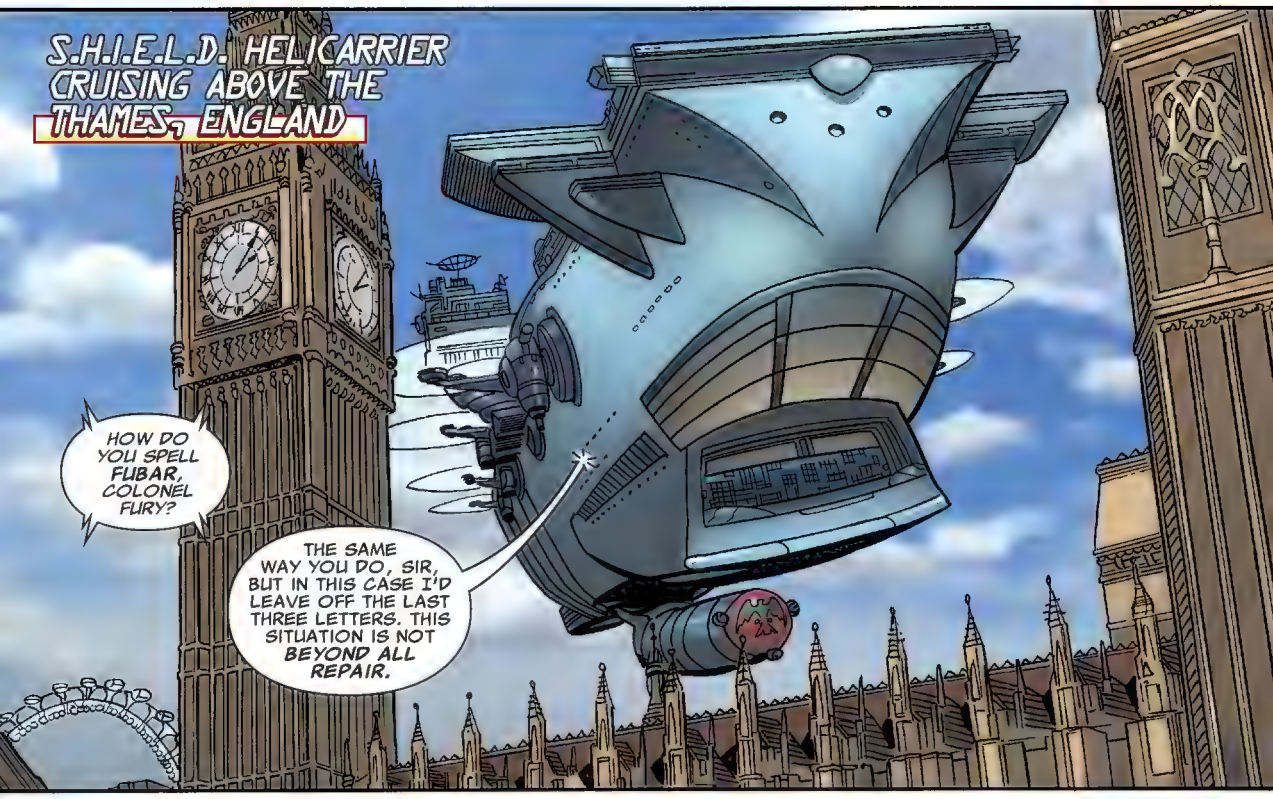


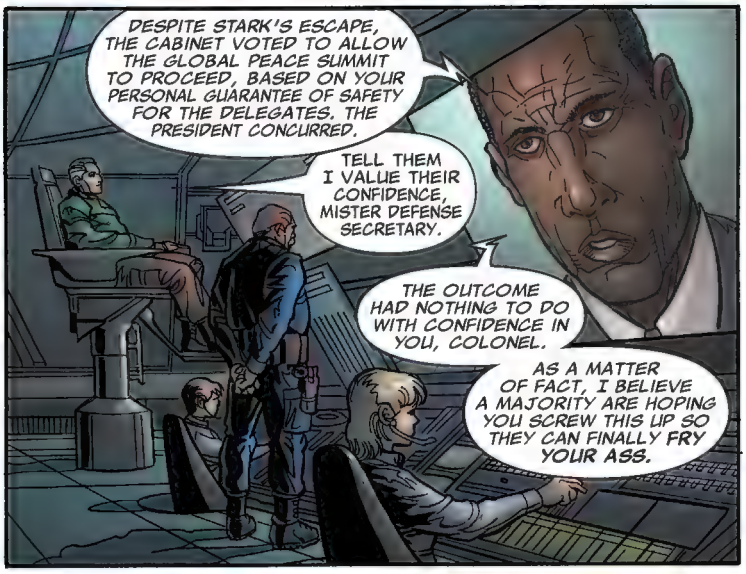



WHOA...

I KILLED 'EM, SAL. KILLED 'EM ALL...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
NO. NOT EVEN A SENSE OF MISSING TIME. NOTHING LEADING UP TO IT. NOTHING COMING AWAY FROM IT. EXCEPT...
...THIS LAST TIME.

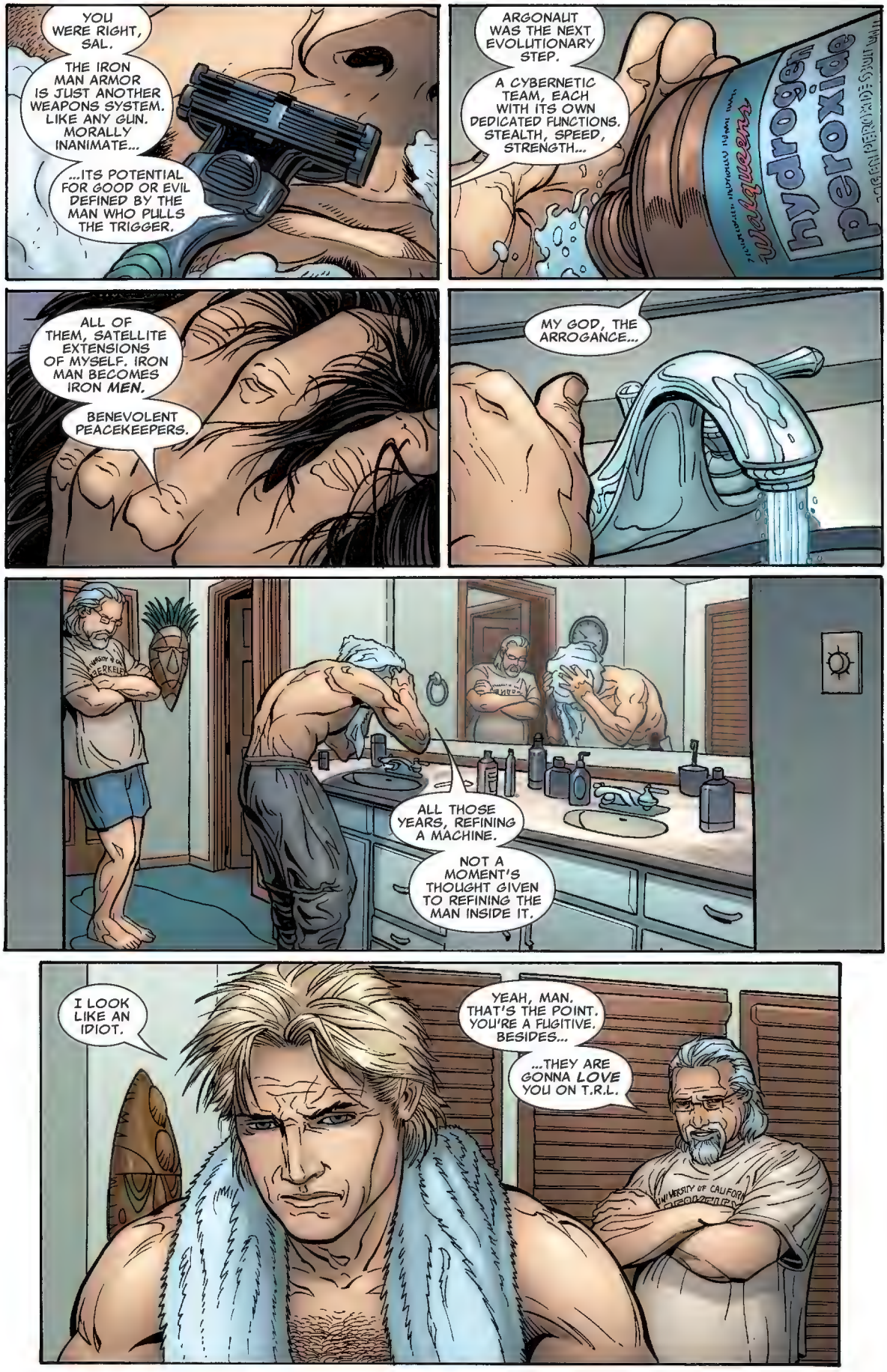

I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAME HERE.
I SHOULD GO.

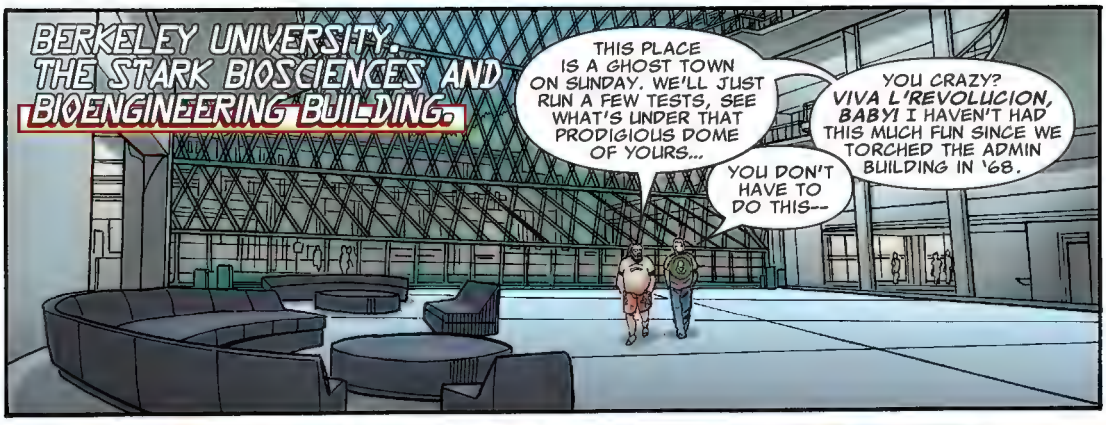

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER CRUISING ABOVE THE THAMES, ENGLAND
HOW DO YOU SPELL FUBAR, COLONEL FURY?
THE SAME WAY YOU DO, SIR, BUT IN THIS CASE I'D LEAVE OFF THE LAST THREE LETTERS. THIS SITUATION IS NOT BEYOND ALL REPAIR.


DESPITE STARK'S ESCAPE, THE CABINET VOTED TO ALLOW THE GLOBAL PEACE SUMMIT TO PROCEED, BASED ON YOUR PERSONAL GUARANTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE DELEGATES. THE PRESIDENT CONCURRED.
TELL THEM I VALUE THEIR CONFIDENCE, MISTER DEFENSE SECRETARY.
THE OUTCOME HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CONFIDENCE IN YOU, COLONEL.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I BELIEVE A MAJORITY ARE HOPING YOU SCREW THIS UP SO THEY CAN FINALLY FRY YOUR ASS.

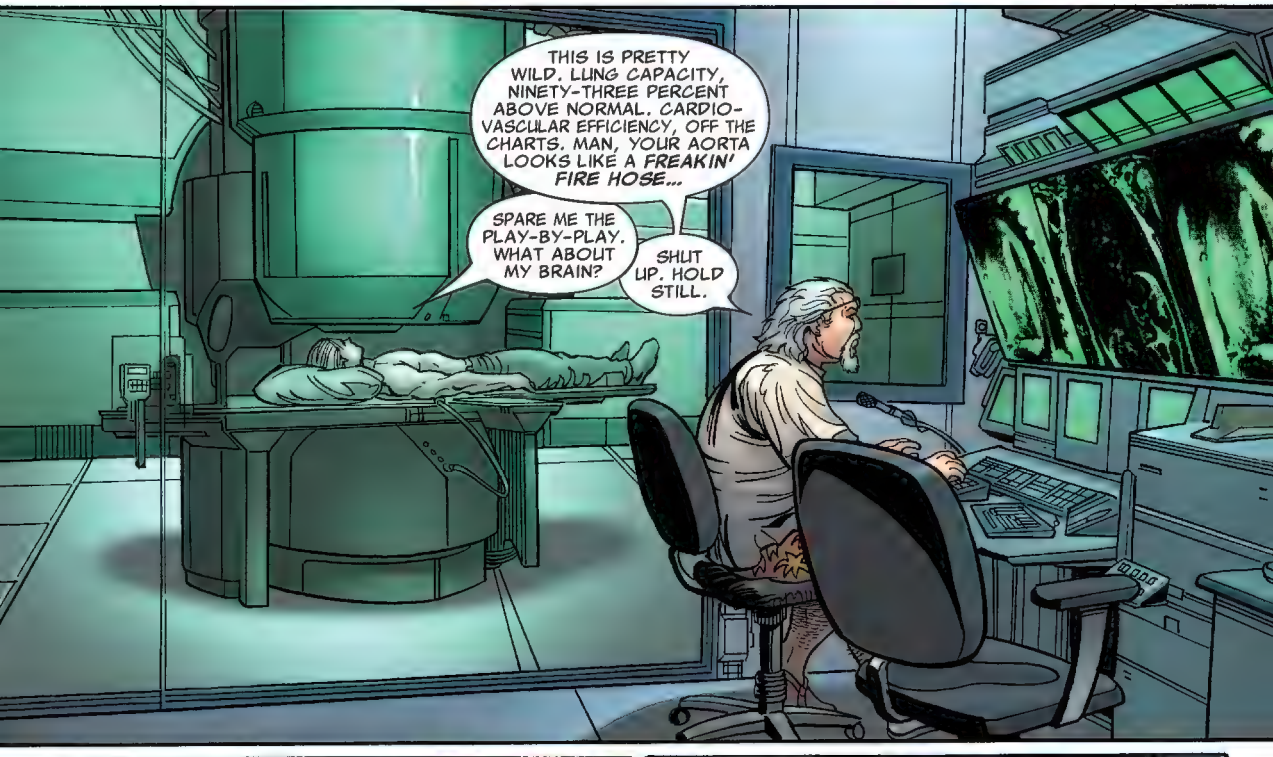
I APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR, SIR. AT THIS POINT, THE SENTRY IS DEVOTING HIS FULL RESOURCES TOWARD APPREHENDING STARK.
I ASSUME YOU'VE CONVEYED THAT LETHAL FORCE IS AUTHORIZED.
I HAVE, SIR.

WE'RE HAVING A HELLUVA TIME KEEPING A LID ON THIS THING, FURY. THAT LITTLE CAPER IN THE IRAQI DESERT HAS OUR DISINFORMATION UNIT WORKING TRIPLE SHIFTS.
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.
DON'T DISAPPOINT ME, FURY.

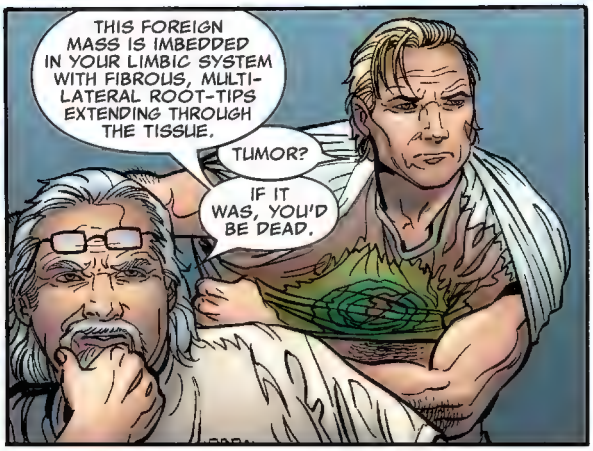

YOU WERE RIGHT, SAL.
THE IRON MAN ARMOR IS JUST ANOTHER WEAPONS SYSTEM. LIKE ANY GUN. MORALLY INANIMATE...
...ITS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD OR EVIL DEFINED BY THE MAN WHO PULLS THE TRIGGER.
ARGONAUT WAS THE NEXT EVOLUTIONARY STEP.
A CYBERNETIC TEAM, EACH WITH ITS OWN DEDICATED FUNCTIONS. STEALTH, SPEED, STRENGTH...
hydrogen peroxide
ALL OF THEM, SATELLITE EXTENSIONS OF MYSELF. IRON MAN BECOMES IRON MEN.
BENEVOLENT PEACEKEEPERS.
MY GOD, THE ARROGANCE...
ALL THOSE YEARS, REFINING A MACHINE.
NOT A MOMENT'S THOUGHT GIVEN TO REFINING THE MAN INSIDE IT.
I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.
YEAH, MAN. THAT'S THE POINT. YOU'RE A FUGITIVE. BESIDES...
...THEY ARE GONNA LOVE YOU ON T.R.L.


BERKELEY UNIVERSITY. THE STARK BIOSCIENCES AND BIOENGINEERING BUILDING.
THIS PLACE IS A GHOST TOWN ON SUNDAY. WE'LL JUST RUN A FEW TESTS, SEE WHAT'S UNDER THAT PRODIGIOUS DOME OF YOURS...
YOU CRAZY? VIVA L'REVOLUCION, BABY! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE WE TORCHED THE ADMIN BUILDING IN '68.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS--

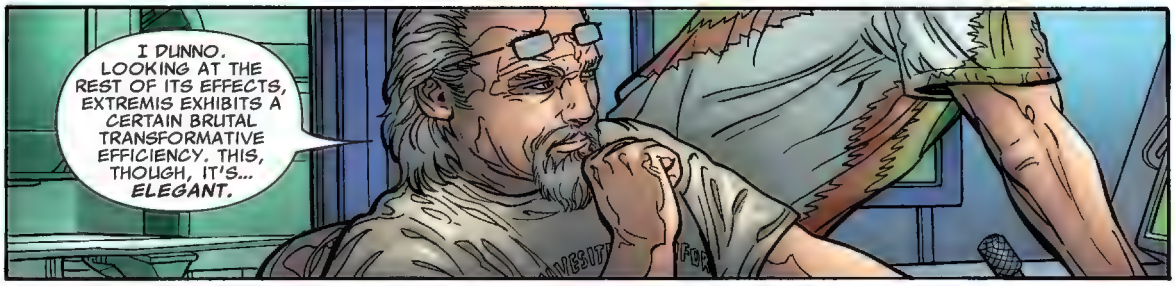
BESIDES, THEY CAN'T FIRE ME.
I'VE GOT TENURE.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

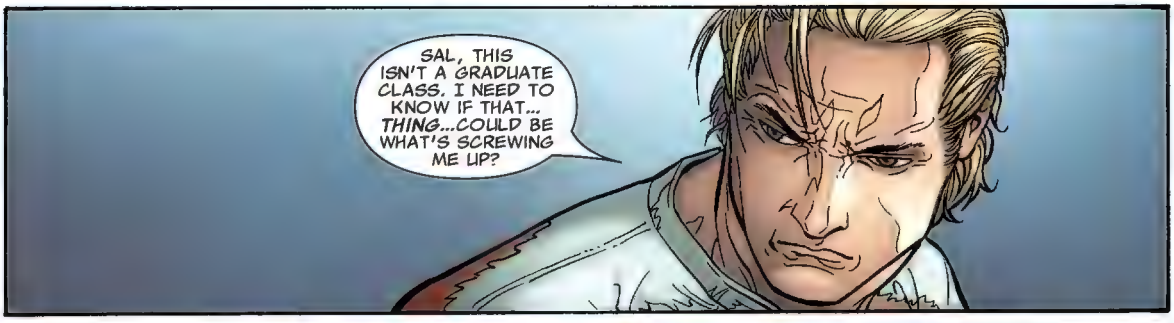

THIS IS PRETTY WILD. LUNG CAPACITY, NINETY-THREE PERCENT ABOVE NORMAL. CARDIO-VASCULAR EFFICIENCY, OFF THE CHARTS. MAN, YOUR AORTA LOOKS LIKE A FREAKIN' FIRE HOSE...
SPARE ME THE PLAY-BY-PLAY. WHAT ABOUT MY BRAIN?
SHUT UP. HOLD STILL.

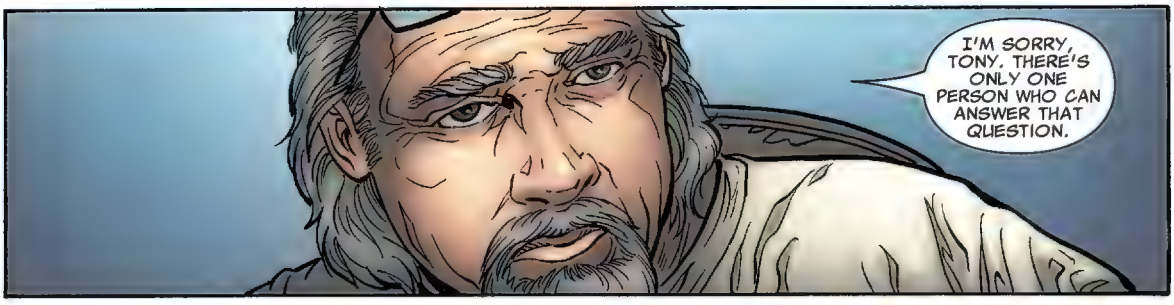
NOW THAT'S JUST...
...FUNKY.
STARK, GET IN HERE AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

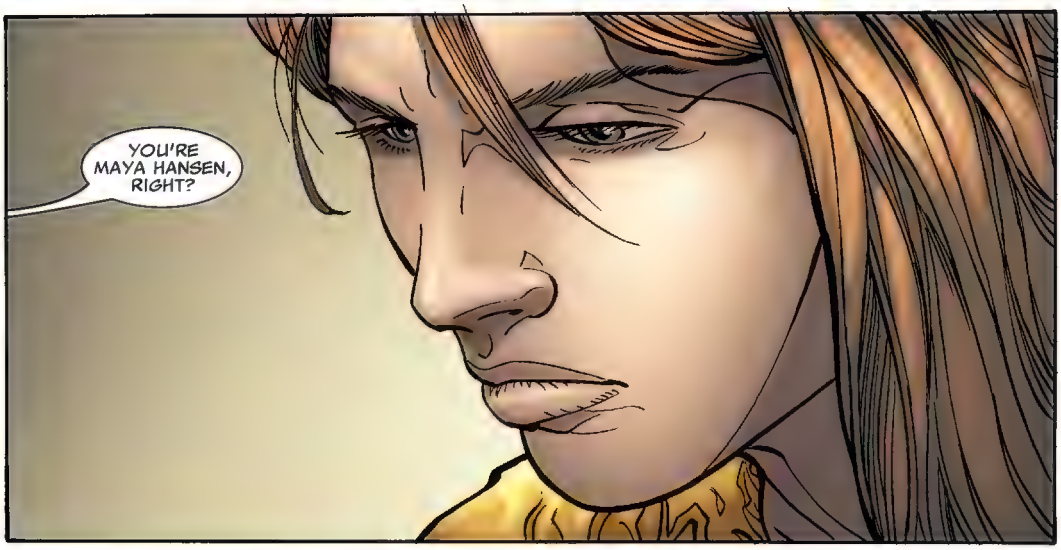

THIS FOREIGN MASS IS IMBEDDED IN YOUR LIMBIC SYSTEM WITH FIBROUS, MULTI-LATERAL ROOT-TIPS EXTENDING THROUGH THE TISSUE.
TUMOR?
IF IT WAS, YOU'D BE DEAD.

NOTHING I'VE SEEN OUTSIDE OF NATURE IS THIS COMPLEX. BUT THE UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION OF THE MATRIX SEEMS TO INDICATE NANO-BIOMECHANICS.
MUST BE THE EXTREMIS.


I DUNNO. LOOKING AT THE REST OF ITS EFFECTS, EXTREMIS EXHIBITS A CERTAIN BRUTAL TRANSFORMATIVE EFFICIENCY. THIS, THOUGH, IT'S... ELEGANT.

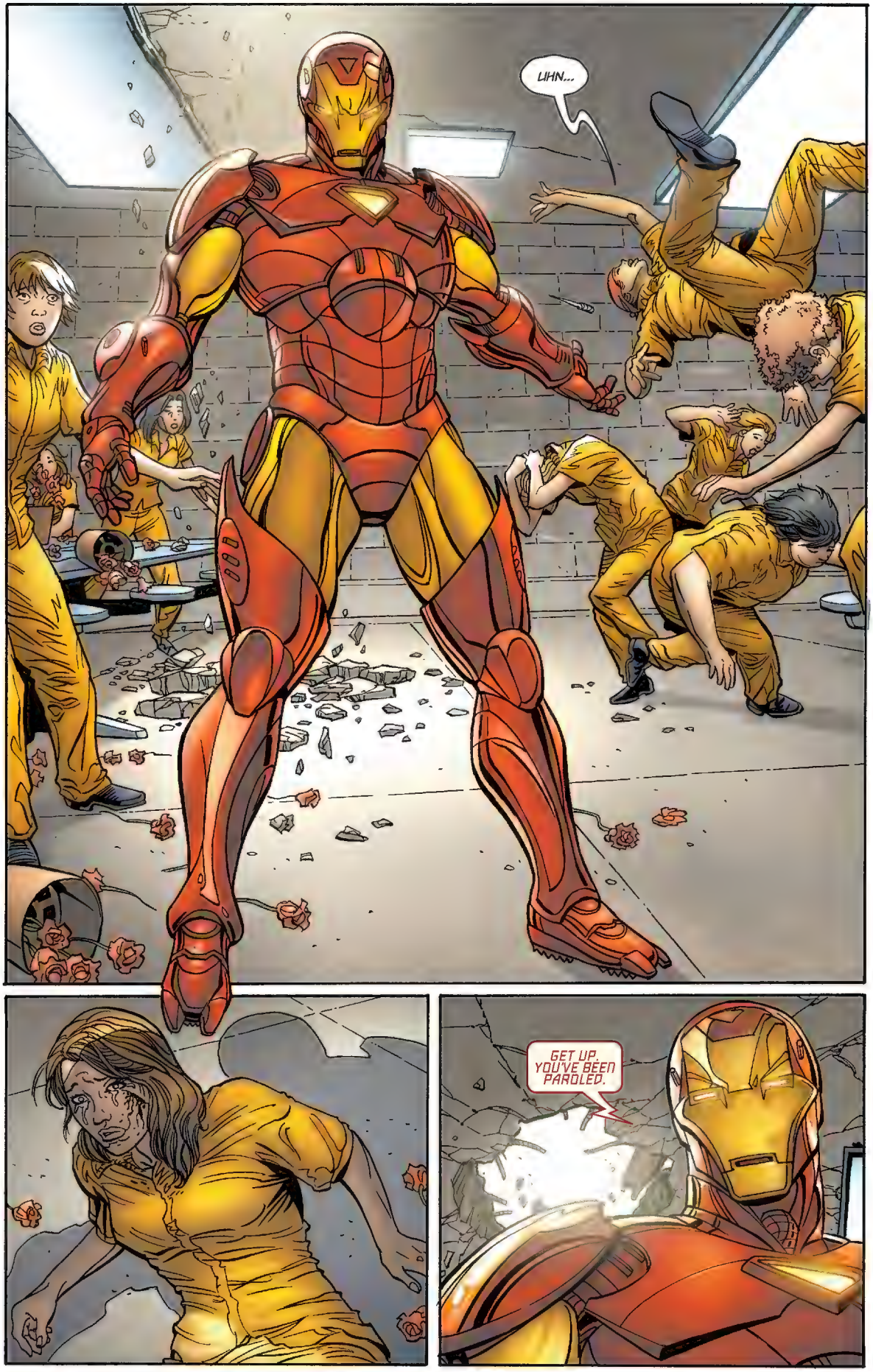

SAL, THIS ISN'T A GRADUATE CLASS. I NEED TO KNOW IF THAT... THING...COULD BE WHAT'S SCREWING ME UP?

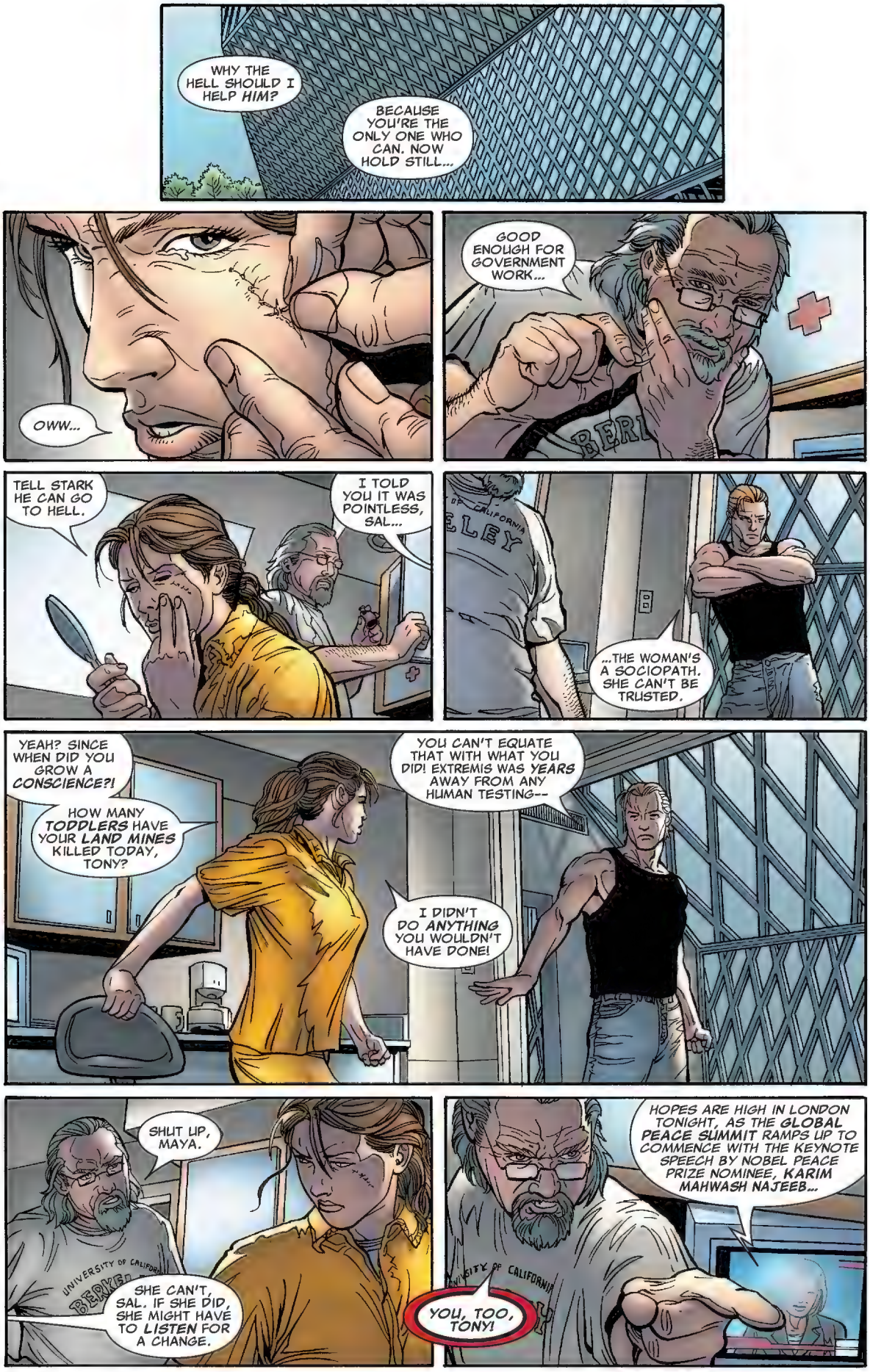

I'M SORRY, TONY. THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

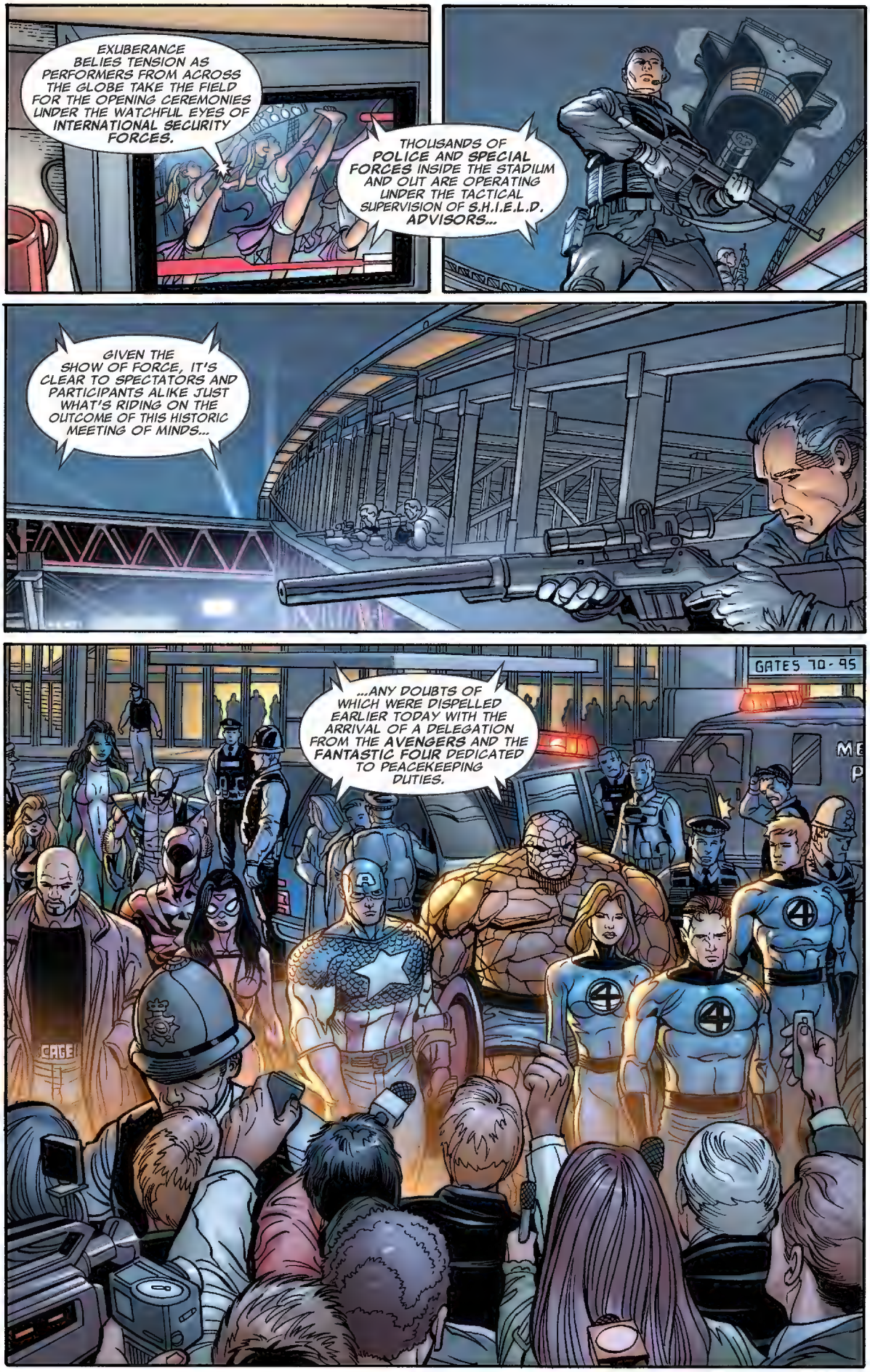

YOU'RE MAYA HANSEN, RIGHT?

WEST VIRGINIA, ALDERSON FEDERAL PRISON CAMP
YEAH.
I'M ROSIE. YOUR FLOWERS LOOK TOTALLY REAL.
YEAH. I JUST KNEW THAT THIRD PH.D. IN BOTANY WOULD COME IN HANDY AT SOME POINT.
YOU, LIKE, SOME KINDA GENIUS, HUH? THIS PLACE MUST DRIVE YOU CRAZY. THESE GIRLS ARE ALL SO DUMB, YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK TO THEM. I TALK GOOD CUZ I READ ALL THE TIME.
I GOTTA BIG BROTHER. HE'S SMART, TOO. YOU GOT ANY BROTHERS?
THAT'S NICE.
I'M KINDA BUSY, HERE--
HIS NAME IS ROBERT MONTOYA. HE'S IN THE FBI, CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? HERE I AM AND THERE HE IS. HE HAS A DIFFERENT DAD THAN ME, SO I GUESS THAT'S WHY MAYBE. BUT I LOVE HIM AND HE WROTE ME ALL THE TIME, YOU KNOW...?
THIS IS ROBERT. MY BIG BROTHER, THE FED. ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL?
YEAH, UHM... GREAT.
QUANTICO
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT HIM. LOOK AT HIM!
HE WAS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OLD. THE FIRST ONE IN MY FAMILY TO DO ANYTHING. HE BOUGHT ME A CAMARO. FIXED IT UP FOR ME.
YEAH? THAT'S GREAT. HONESTLY...
HE'S DEAD NOW. BURNED ALIVE. SOME FIRE-BREATHING PSYCHO ATTACKED HIS STATION IN HOUSTON ALL JACKED UP ON SOME KIND OF SUPER-CRANK.
SOUND FAMILIAR?

YOU KILLED HIM. KILLED HIM WITH THAT DEVIL-DRUG YOU COOKED UP!
I DIDN'T...
NOOOO...!
OH, BABY, DON'T CRY. I'M JUST GETTING STARTED...

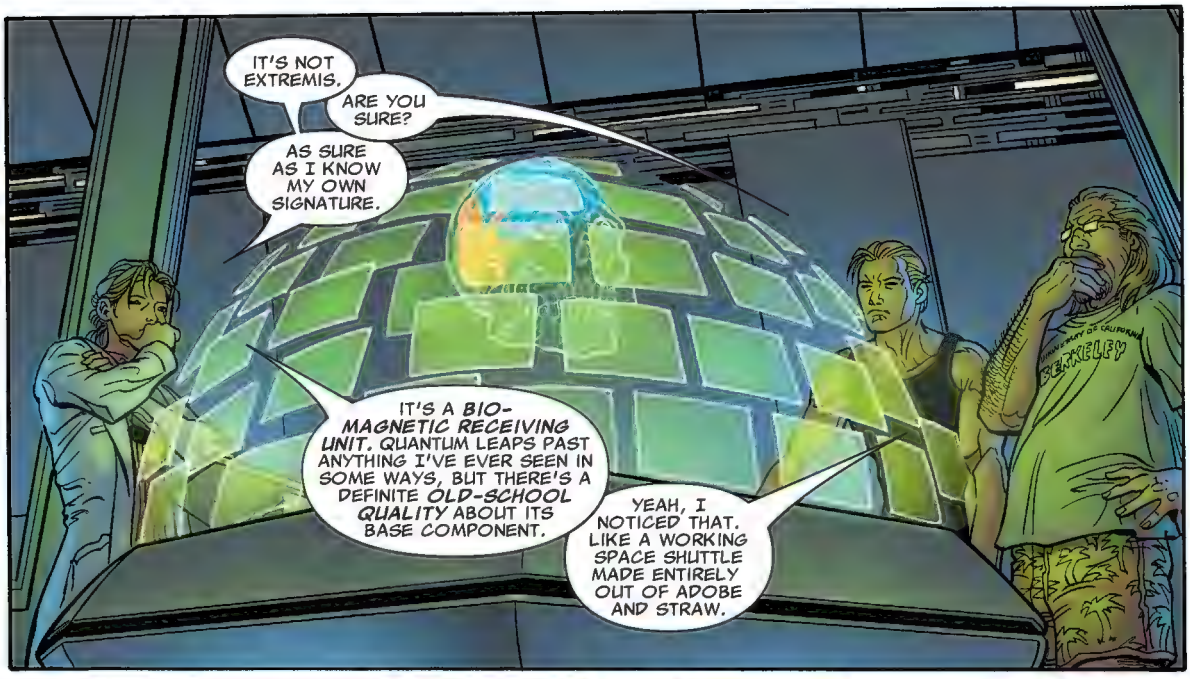

UHN...
GET UP. YOU'VE BEEN PAROLED.

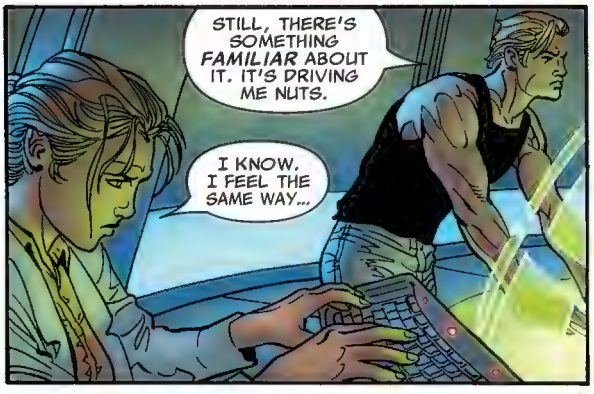

WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HELP *HIM*?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN. NOW HOLD STILL...
OWW...
GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK...
TELL STARK HE CAN GO TO HELL.
I TOLD YOU IT WAS POINTLESS, SAL...
...THE WOMAN'S A SOCIOPATH. SHE CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
YEAH? SINCE WHEN DID YOU GROW A *CONSCIENCE*?!
HOW MANY *TODDLERS* HAVE YOUR *LAND MINES* KILLED TODAY, TONY?
YOU CAN'T EQUATE THAT WITH WHAT YOU DID! EXTREMIS WAS *YEARS* AWAY FROM ANY HUMAN TESTING--
I DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING* YOU WOULDN'T HAVE DONE!
SHUT UP, MAYA.
SHE CAN'T, SAL. IF SHE DID, SHE MIGHT HAVE TO *LISTEN* FOR A CHANGE.
HOPES ARE HIGH IN LONDON TONIGHT, AS THE **GLOBAL PEACE SUMMIT** RAMPS UP TO COMMENCE WITH THE KEYNOTE SPEECH BY NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEE, **KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB**...
YOU, TOO, TONY!

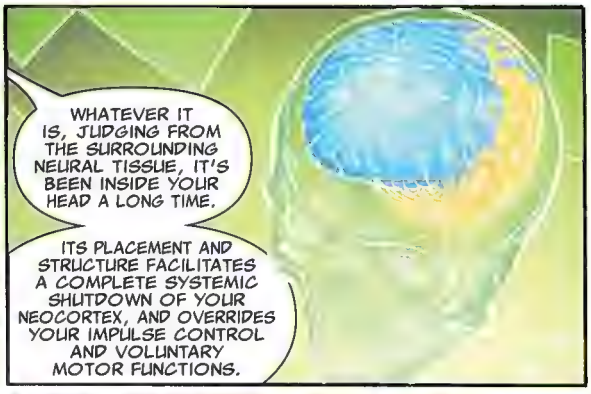

EXUBERANCE BELIES TENSION AS PERFORMERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE TAKE THE FIELD FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.
THOUSANDS OF POLICE AND SPECIAL FORCES INSIDE THE STADIUM AND OUT ARE OPERATING UNDER THE TACTICAL SUPERVISION OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ADVISORS...
GIVEN THE SHOW OF FORCE, IT'S CLEAR TO SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS ALIKE JUST WHAT'S RIDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS HISTORIC MEETING OF MINDS...
...ANY DOUBTS OF WHICH WERE DISPELLED EARLIER TODAY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A DELEGATION FROM THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR DEDICATED TO PEACEKEEPING DUTIES.
GATES 70-95
CAGE

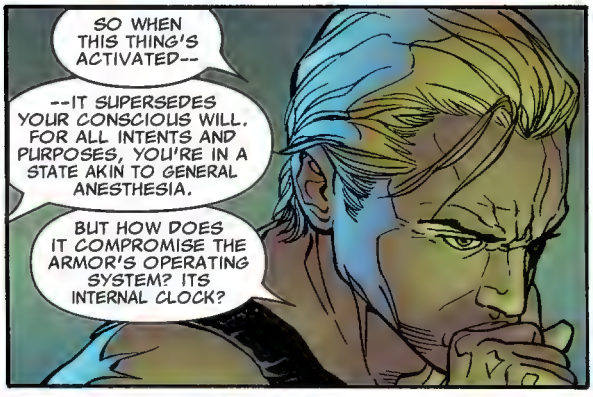
INTERESTINGLY, THE PRIMARY SPONSOR OF THE EVENT, TONY STARK OF STARK INDUSTRIES, WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS...
CNN!
2:46 pm P
WORLD REPORT.
GLOBAL PEACE SUMMIT
...LEADING SOME TO ASK IF HIS SUPPORT IS SIMPLY CANNY PUBLIC RELATIONS, OR A VERY PUBLIC PENANCE FOR PAST SINS.
THAT'S A CHEAP SHOT.
IS IT?
OKAY, HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE, BUCKOS: YOU BOTH SCREWED UP. ALL THREE OF US DID, IF YOU COUNT ME FOR NOT SLAPPING SOME SENSE INTO YOU TWO A LONG TIME AGO.
WE GOT SIX HOURS TO UN-SCREW THINGS UP. I JUST NEED TO KNOW ONE THING, MAYA...
...ARE YOU IN?
UNIVERSITY OF BERKELEY
I'M IN.

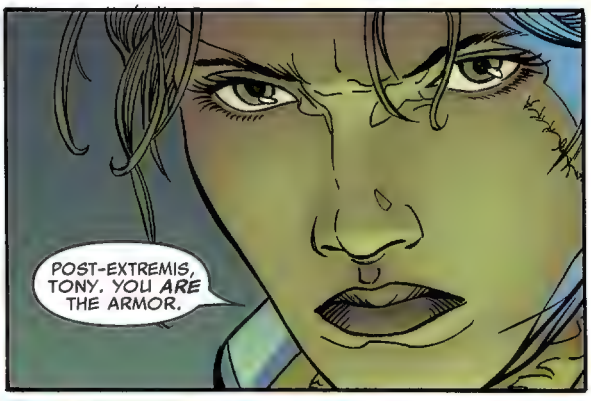
LONDON, WEMBLEY STADIUM
TAKE YOUR HANDS OUT OF YOUR POCKETS AND STEP THROUGH...
SECURITY
BIG CROWD...
GOD KNOWS WHY. BUNCH OF POLITICIANS DRONING ON AND ON...
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO SEE HISTORY BEING MADE.
I S'POSE.
THIS ONE'S CLEAN.

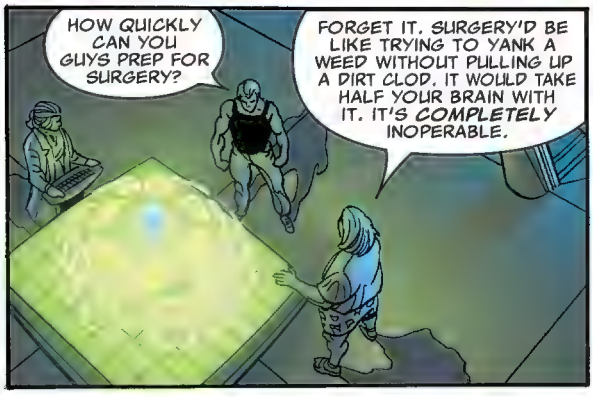

IT'S NOT EXTREMIS.
ARE YOU SURE?
AS SURE AS I KNOW MY OWN SIGNATURE.
IT'S A BIO-MAGNETIC RECEIVING UNIT. QUANTUM LEAPS PAST ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN IN SOME WAYS, BUT THERE'S A DEFINITE OLD-SCHOOL QUALITY ABOUT ITS BASE COMPONENT.
YEAH, I NOTICED THAT. LIKE A WORKING SPACE SHUTTLE MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF ADOBE AND STRAW.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

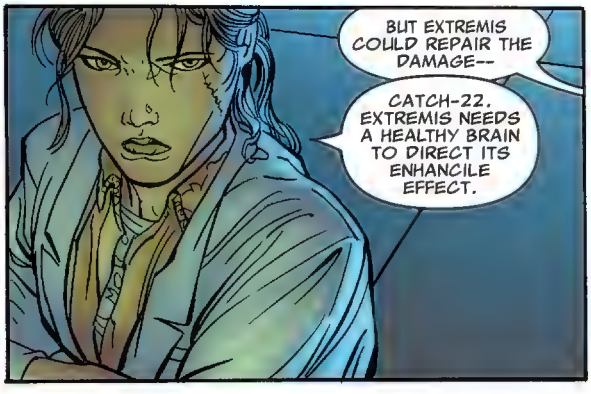

STILL, THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT IT. IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS.
I KNOW. I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

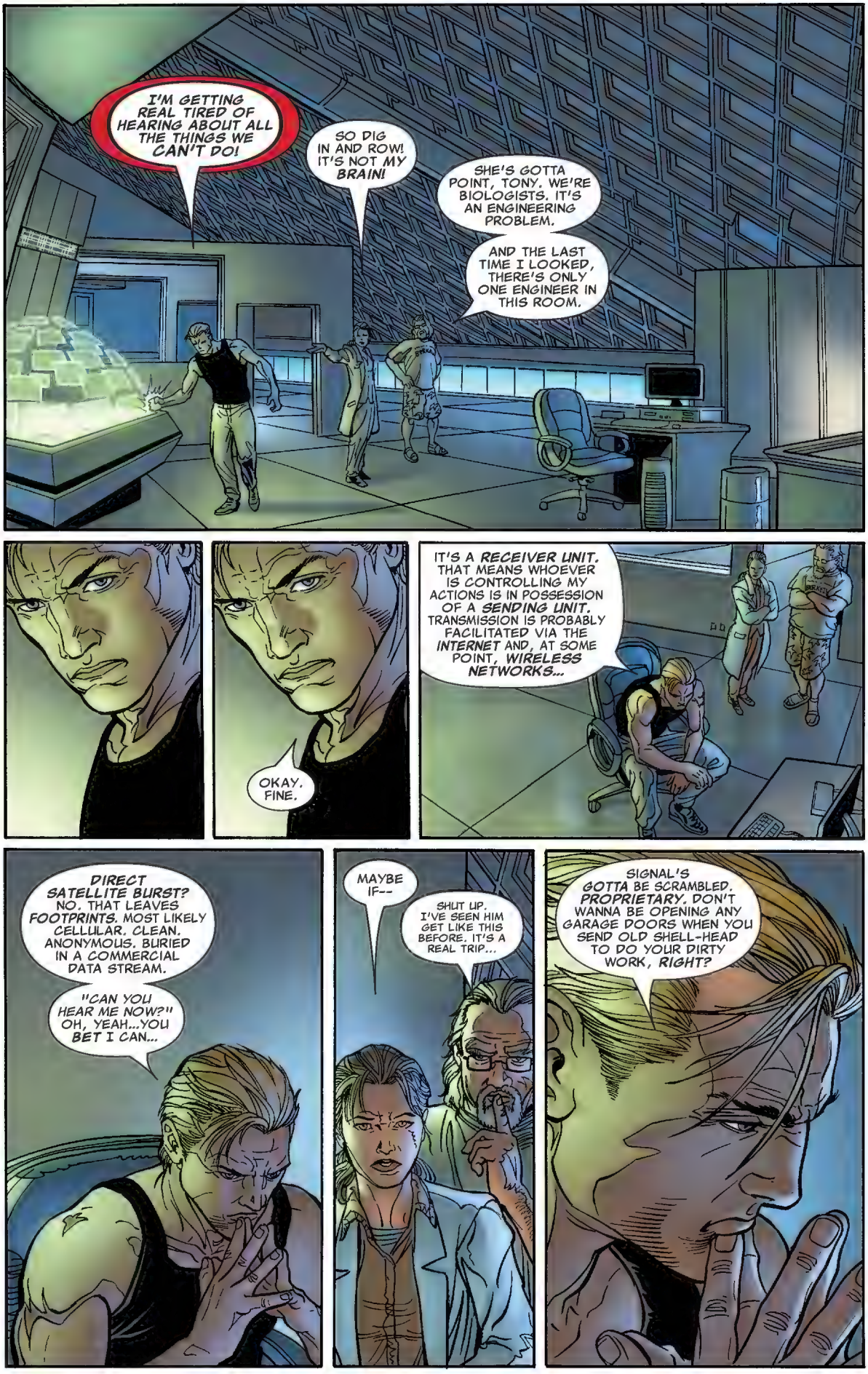

WHATEVER IT IS, JUDGING FROM THE SURROUNDING NEURAL TISSUE, IT'S BEEN INSIDE YOUR HEAD A LONG TIME.
ITS PLACEMENT AND STRUCTURE FACILITATES A COMPLETE SYSTEMIC SHUTDOWN OF YOUR NEOCORTEX, AND OVERRIDES YOUR IMPULSE CONTROL AND VOLUNTARY MOTOR FUNCTIONS.

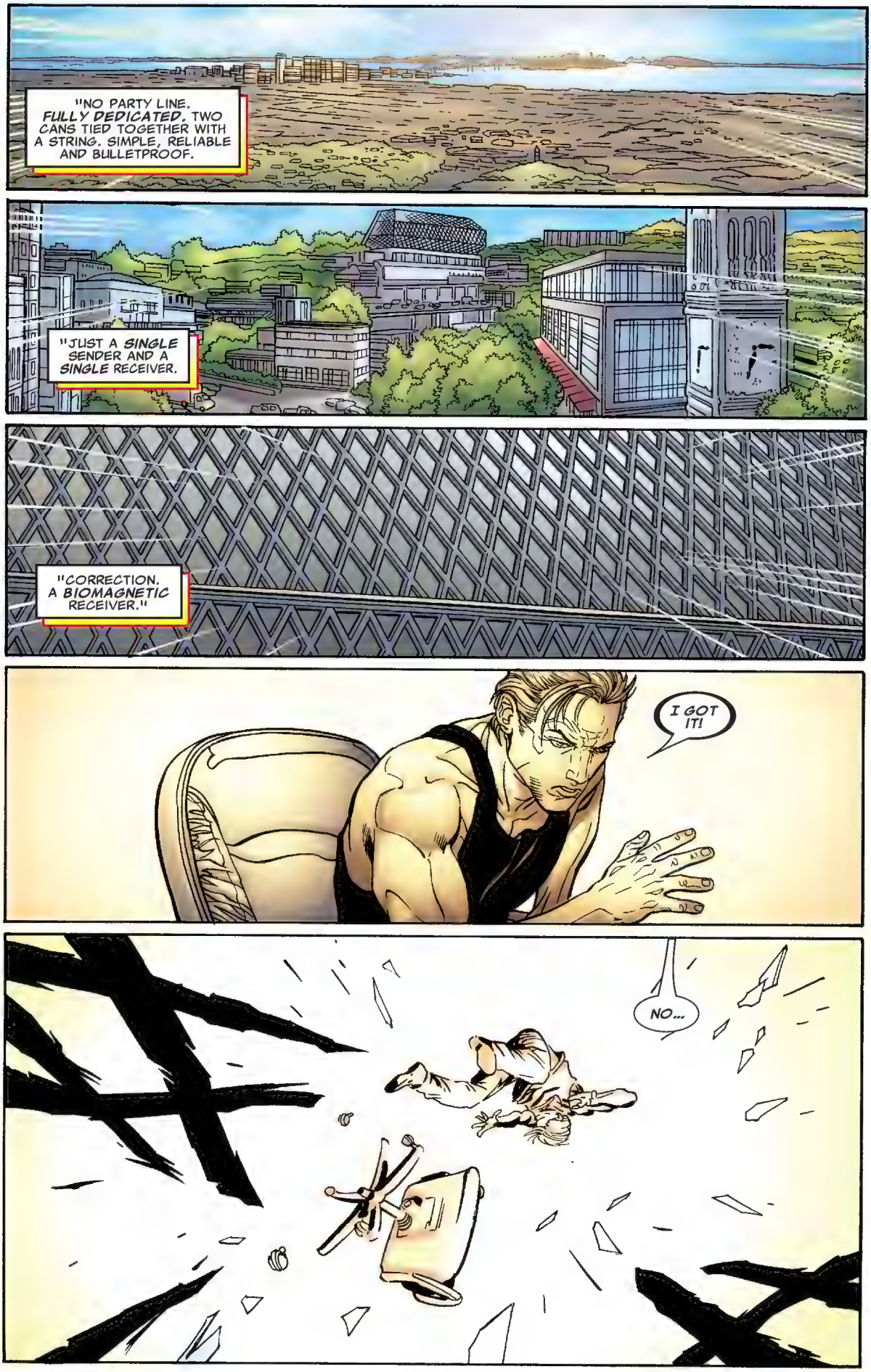

SO WHEN THIS THING'S ACTIVATED--
--IT SUPERSEDES YOUR CONSCIOUS WILL. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YOU'RE IN A STATE AKIN TO GENERAL ANESTHESIA.
BUT HOW DOES IT COMPROMISE THE ARMOR'S OPERATING SYSTEM? ITS INTERNAL CLOCK?


POST-EXTREMIS, TONY. YOU ARE THE ARMOR.


HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU GUYS PREP FOR SURGERY?
FORGET IT. SURGERY'D BE LIKE TRYING TO YANK A WEED WITHOUT PULLING UP A DIRT CLOD. IT WOULD TAKE HALF YOUR BRAIN WITH IT. IT'S COMPLETELY INOPERABLE.

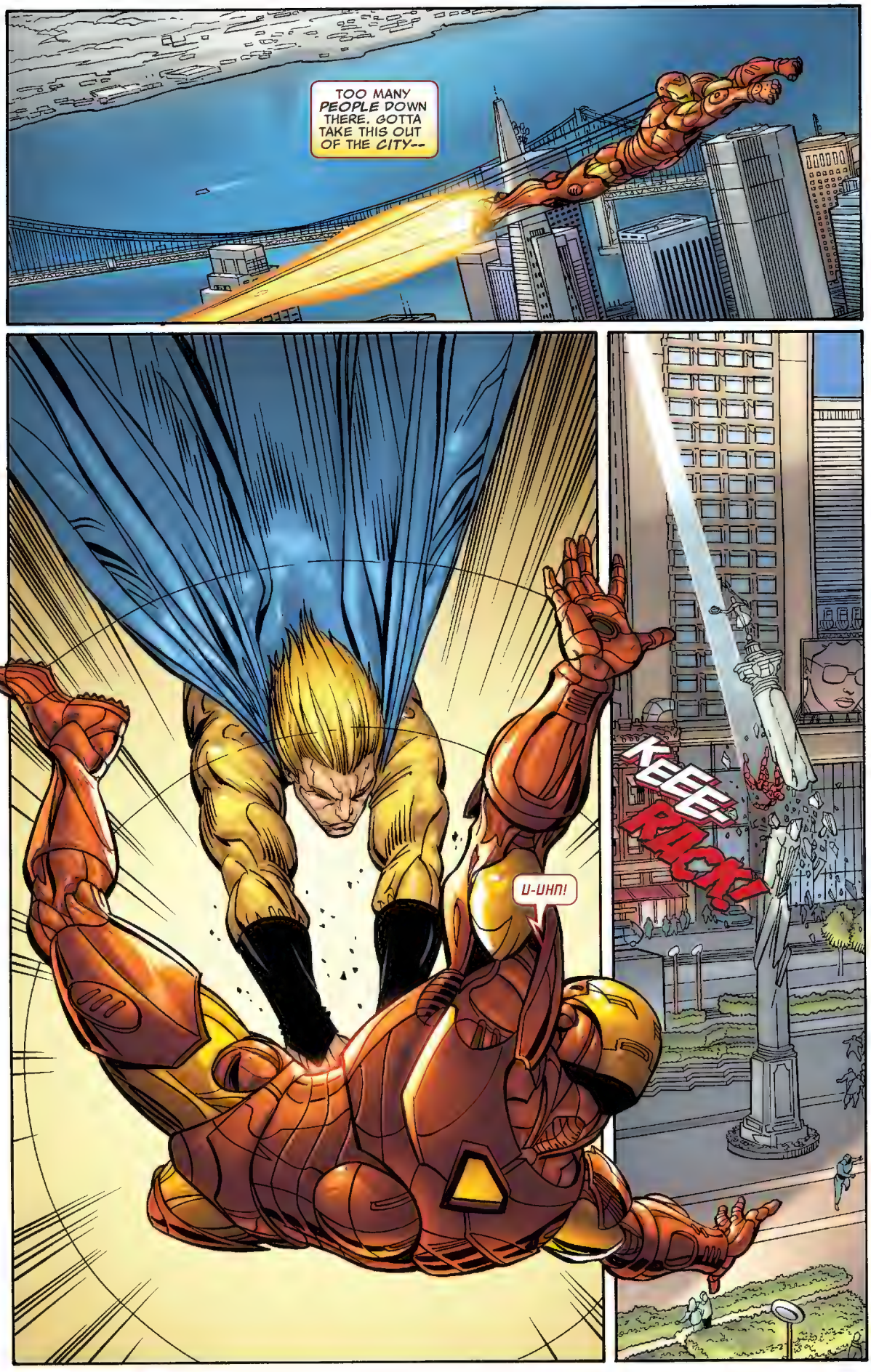

BUT EXTREMIS COULD REPAIR THE DAMAGE--
CATCH-22. EXTREMIS NEEDS A HEALTHY BRAIN TO DIRECT ITS ENHANCILE EFFECT.

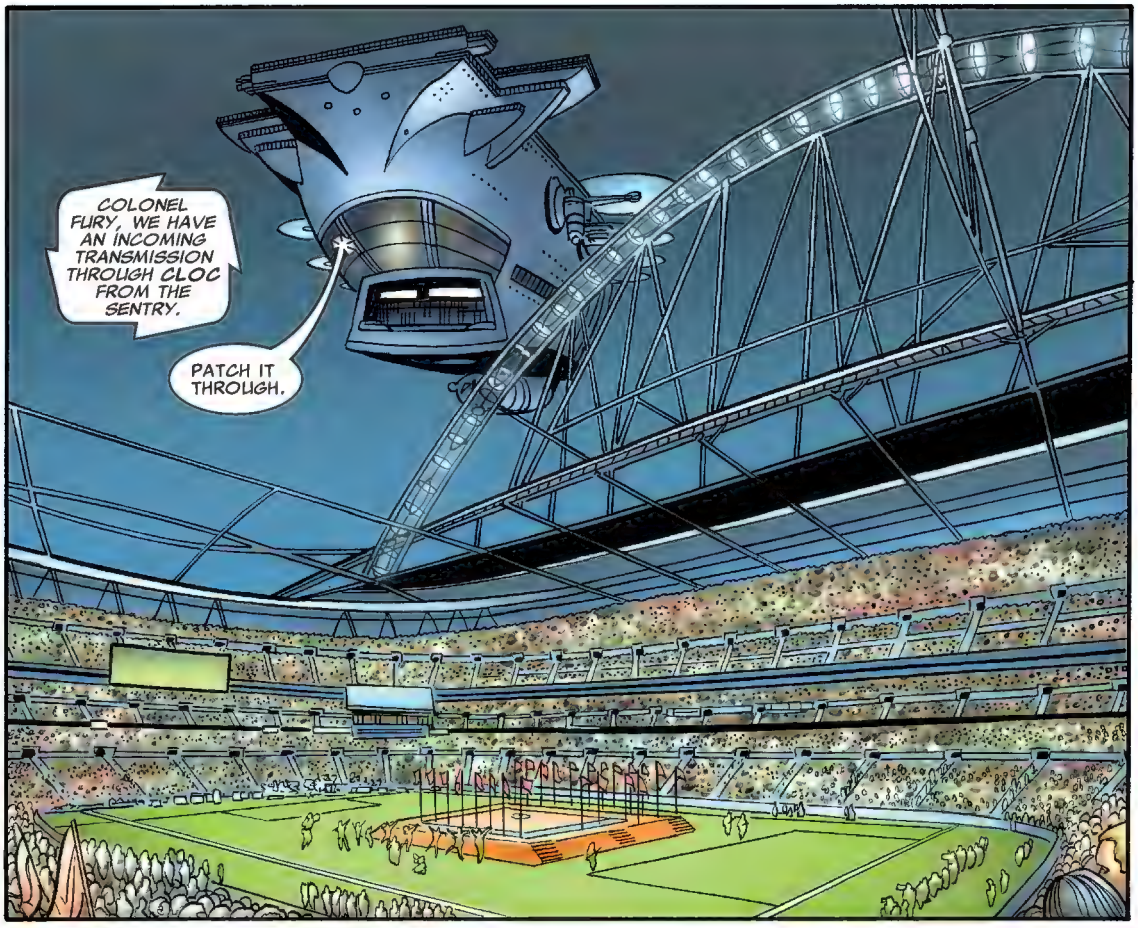

I'M GETTING REAL TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS WE CAN'T DO!
SO DIG IN AND ROW! IT'S NOT MY BRAIN!
SHE'S GOTTA POINT, TONY. WE'RE BIOLOGISTS. IT'S AN ENGINEERING PROBLEM.
AND THE LAST TIME I LOOKED, THERE'S ONLY ONE ENGINEER IN THIS ROOM.
OKAY. FINE.
IT'S A RECEIVER UNIT. THAT MEANS WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING MY ACTIONS IS IN POSSESSION OF A SENDING UNIT. TRANSMISSION IS PROBABLY FACILITATED VIA THE INTERNET AND, AT SOME POINT, WIRELESS NETWORKS...
DIRECT SATELLITE BURST? NO. THAT LEAVES FOOTPRINTS. MOST LIKELY CELLULAR. CLEAN. ANONYMOUS. BURIED IN A COMMERCIAL DATA STREAM.
"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?" OH, YEAH...YOU BET I CAN...
MAYBE IF--
SHUT UP. I'VE SEEN HIM GET LIKE THIS BEFORE. IT'S A REAL TRIP...
SIGNAL'S GOTTA BE SCRAMBLED. PROPRIETARY. DON'T WANNA BE OPENING ANY GARAGE DOORS WHEN YOU SEND OLD SHELL-HEAD TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK, RIGHT?

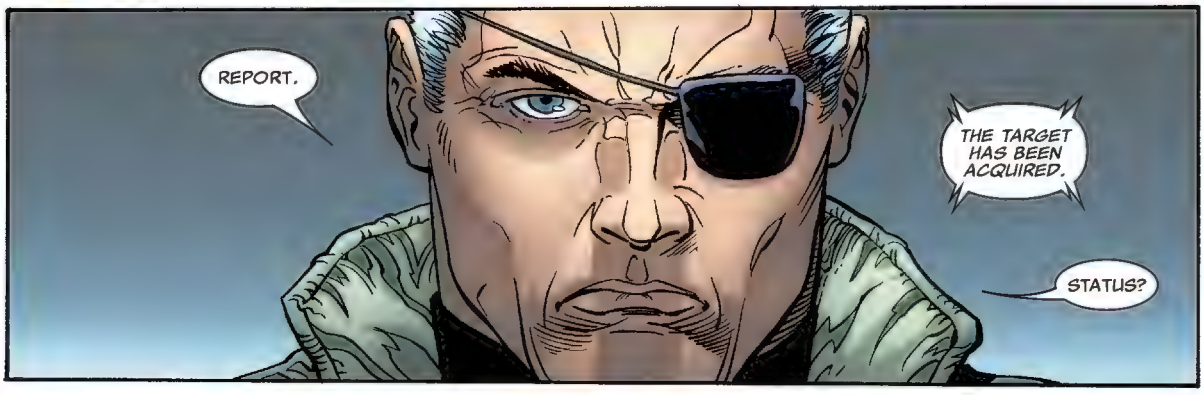

"NO PARTY LINE. FULLY DEDICATED. TWO CANS TIED TOGETHER WITH A STRING. SIMPLE, RELIABLE AND BULLETPROOF.
"JUST A SINGLE SENDER AND A SINGLE RECEIVER.
"CORRECTION. A BIOMAGNETIC RECEIVER."
I GOT IT!
NO...

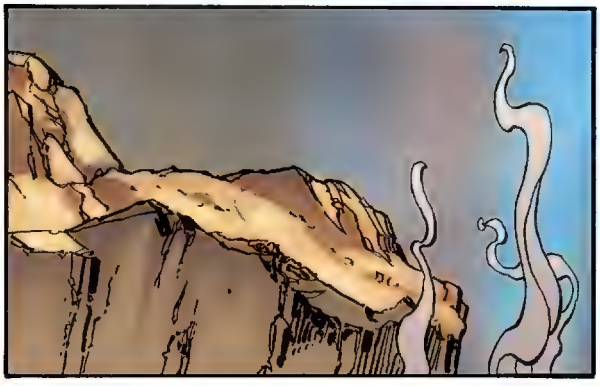
...I'VE GOT YOU.
DON'T--

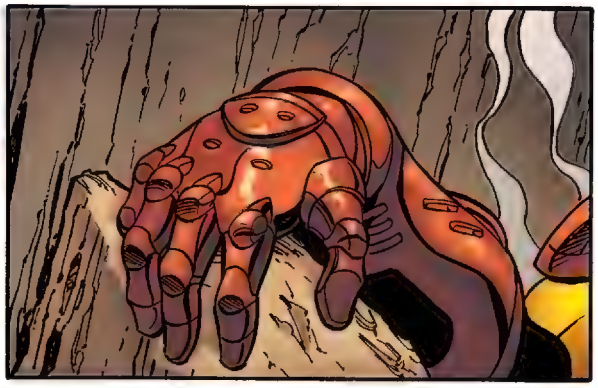
BAD IDEA, TONY!
I DON'T THINK SO...
DAMN, HE'S FAST...
KDAK
Berkel
73X
FREE SE


TOO MANY PEOPLE DOWN THERE. GOTTA TAKE THIS OUT OF THE CITY--
U-UHN!
KEE-RACK!


COLONEL FURY, WE HAVE AN INCOMING TRANSMISSION THROUGH CLOC FROM THE SENTRY.
PATCH IT THROUGH.


REPORT.
THE TARGET HAS BEEN ACQUIRED.
STATUS?





NEUTRALIZED.

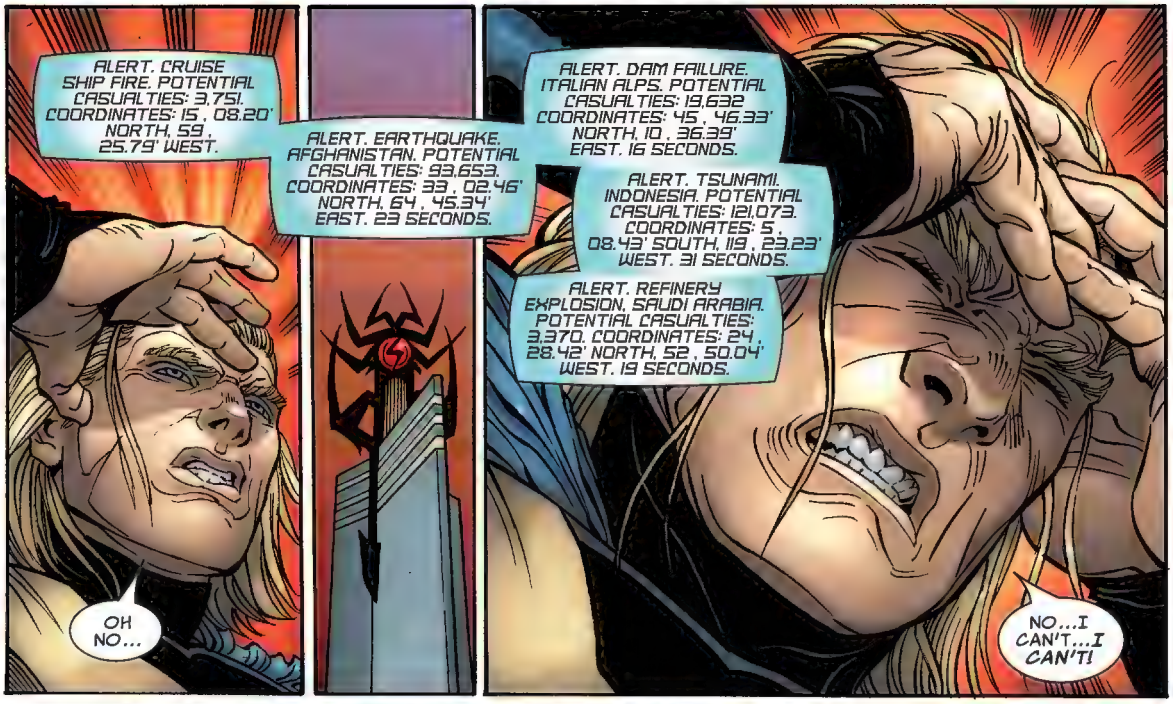
#11

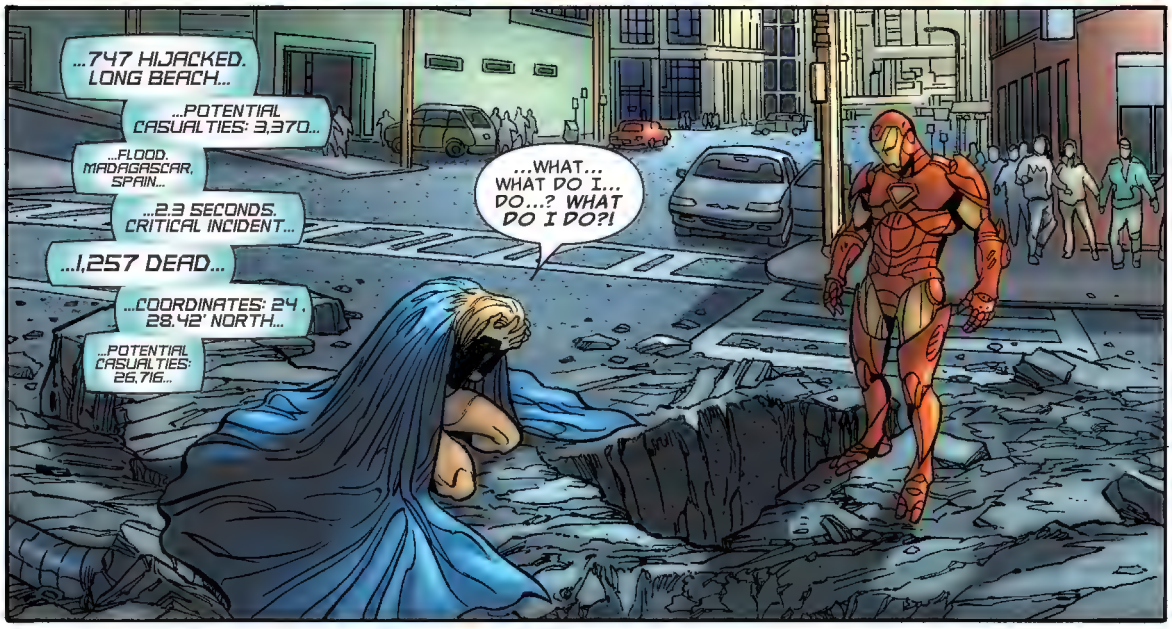
SENTRY, REPORT.
THE TARGET HAS BEEN ACQUIRED, FURY.
SCANNING FOR PHYSIOLOGICAL DEFECTS...
STATUS?
NEUTRALIZED.
...NONE DETECTED.
LUCKY ME...
KERRAACK!
NEUTRALIZE THIS.

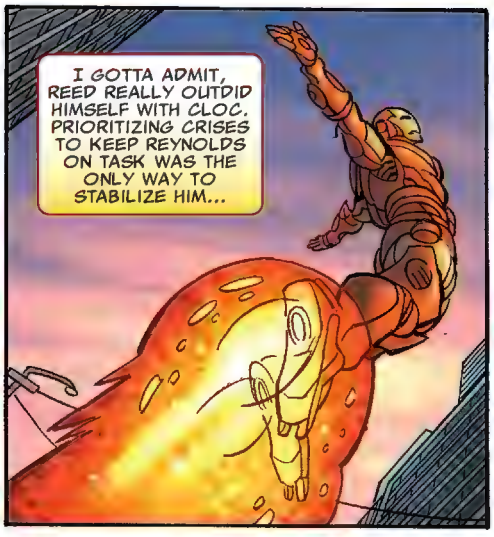
UH-NGH!
SSS-BOOF!

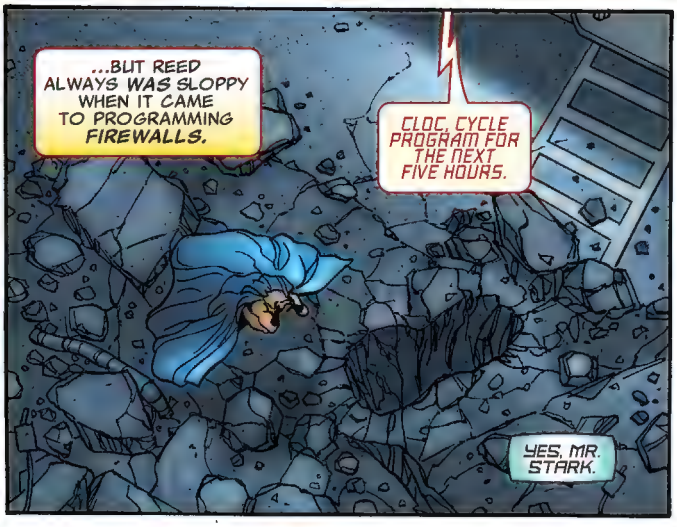
WHOMP!
UNION SQUARE HOTEL
TAXI
LOADING
FFLOOOSH
OHHHHH... DAMN...

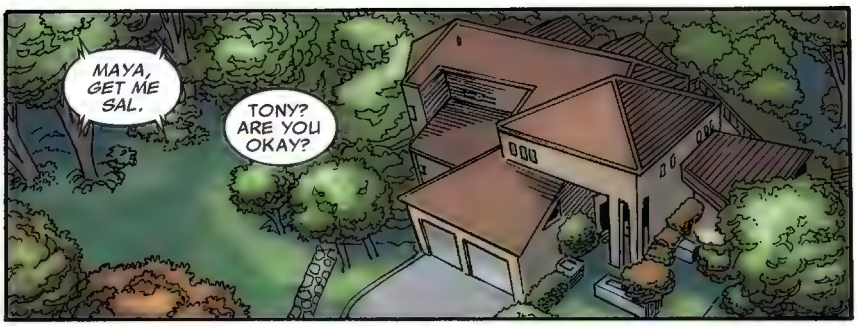
YOU'RE FAST, TONY. VERY FAST. BUT I'M ALWAYS GOING TO BE TWO SECONDS AHEAD OF YOU.
YOU CAN SET YOUR CLOCK BY IT.
MY CLOCK... SET...MY... CLOCK...
CLOC!

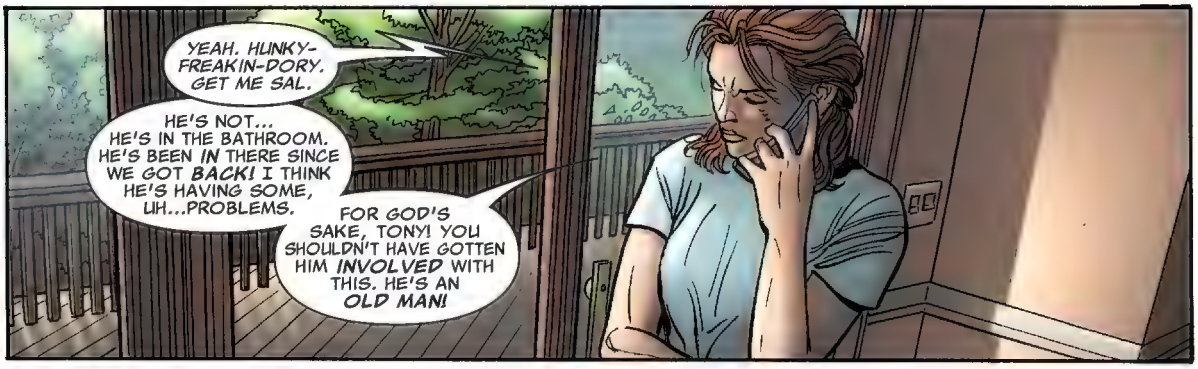

ALERT. CRUISE SHIP FIRE. POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 3,751. COORDINATES: 15 , 08.20' NORTH, 59 , 25.79' WEST.
ALERT. EARTHQUAKE. AFGHANISTAN. POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 93,653. COORDINATES: 33 , 02.46' NORTH, 64 , 45.34' EAST. 23 SECONDS.
ALERT. DAM FAILURE. ITALIAN ALPS. POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 19,632 COORDINATES: 45 , 46.33' NORTH, 10 , 36.39' EAST. 16 SECONDS.
ALERT. TSUNAMI. INDONESIA. POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 121,073. COORDINATES: 5 , 08.43' SOUTH, 119 , 23.23' WEST. 31 SECONDS.
ALERT. REFINERY EXPLOSION. SAUDI ARABIA. POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 3,370. COORDINATES: 24 , 28.42' NORTH, 52 , 50.04' WEST. 19 SECONDS.
OH NO...
NO...I CAN'T...I CAN'T!

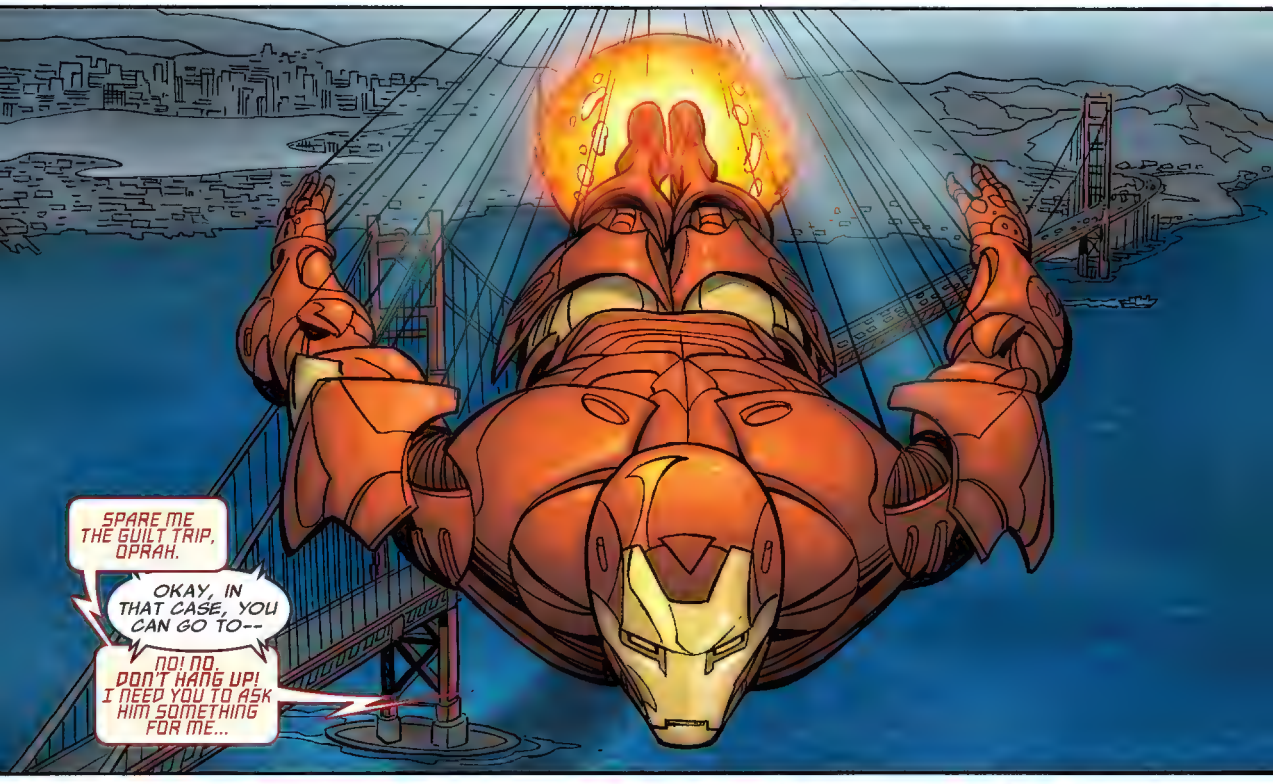

...747 HIJACKED. LONG BEACH...
...POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 3,370...
...FLOOD. MADAGASCAR, SPAIN...
...2.3 SECONDS. CRITICAL INCIDENT...
...1,257 DEAD...
...COORDINATES: 24 , 28.42' NORTH...
...POTENTIAL CASUALTIES: 26,716...
...WHAT... WHAT DO I... DO...? WHAT DO I DO?!

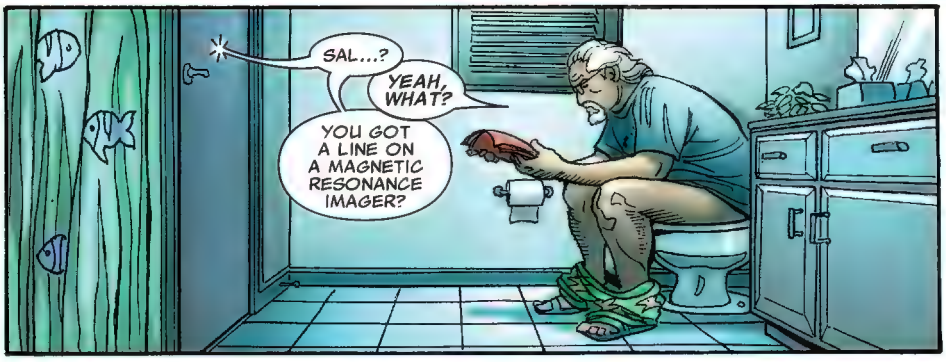

I GOTTA ADMIT, REED REALLY OUTDID HIMSELF WITH CLOC. PRIORITIZING CRISES TO KEEP REYNOLDS ON TASK WAS THE ONLY WAY TO STABILIZE HIM...


...BUT REED ALWAYS WAS SLOPPY WHEN IT CAME TO PROGRAMMING FIREWALLS.
CLOC, CYCLE PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FIVE HOURS.
YES, MR. STARK.


MAYA, GET ME SAL.
TONY? ARE YOU OKAY?

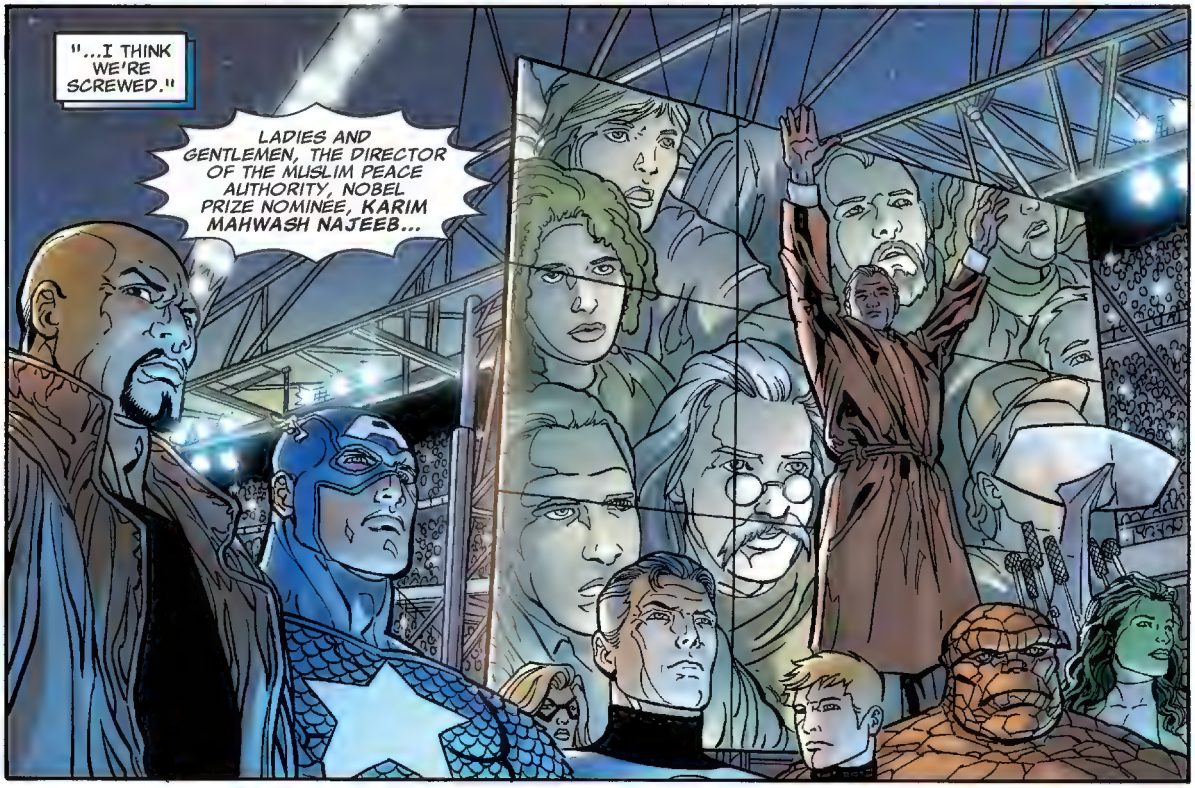

YEAH. HUNKY-FREAKIN-DORY. GET ME SAL.
HE'S NOT... HE'S IN THE BATHROOM. HE'S BEEN *IN* THERE SINCE WE GOT *BACK!* I THINK HE'S HAVING SOME, UH...PROBLEMS.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, TONY! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN HIM *INVOLVED* WITH THIS. HE'S AN *OLD MAN!*


SPARE ME THE GUILT TRIP, OPRAH.
OKAY, IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN GO TO--
NO! NO. DON'T HANG UP! I NEED YOU TO ASK HIM SOMETHING FOR ME...

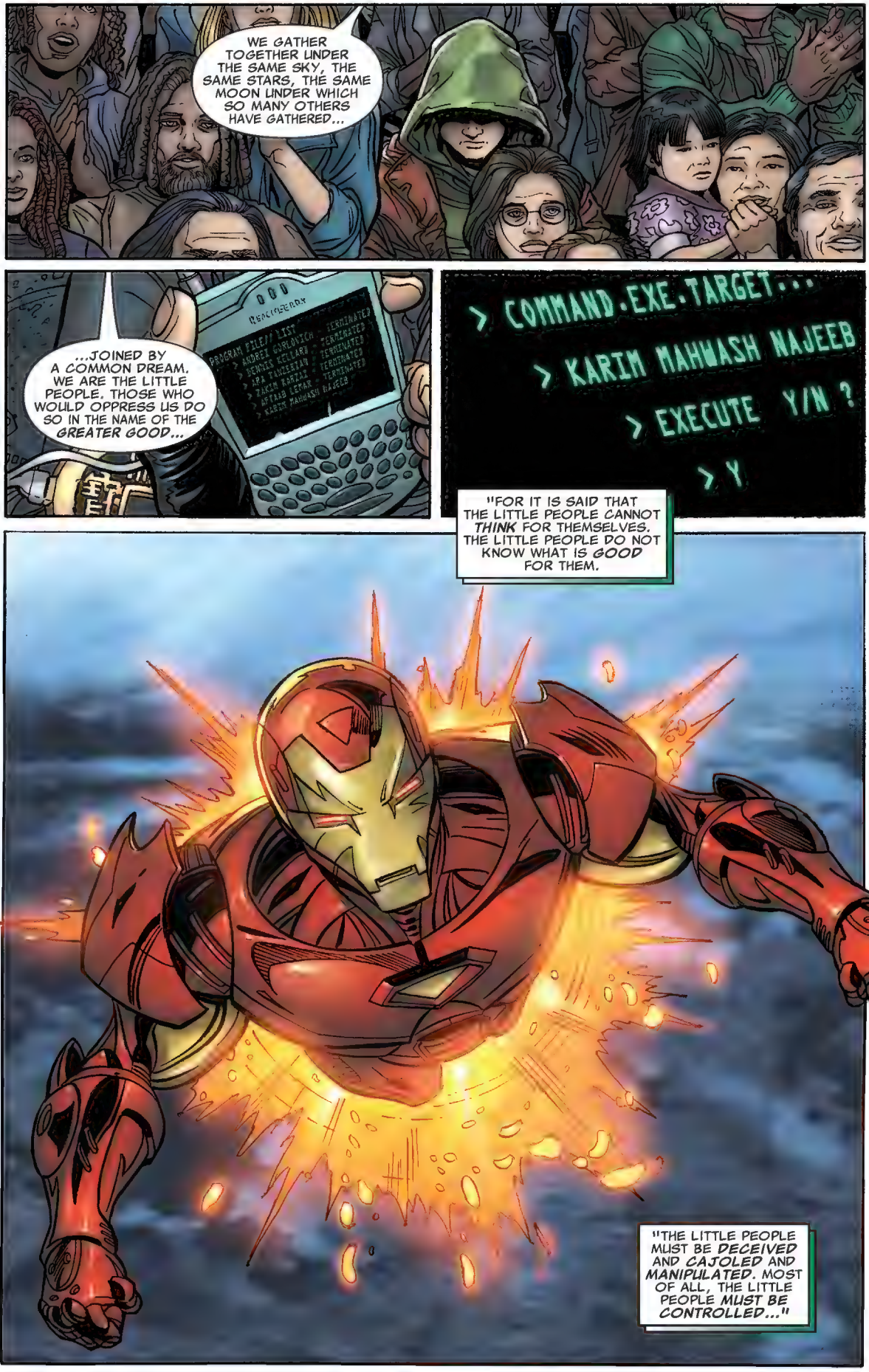

SAL...?
YEAH, WHAT?
YOU GOT A LINE ON A MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGER?

WEMBLEY STADIUM.
LONDON.
COLONEL FURY, WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE SENTRY.

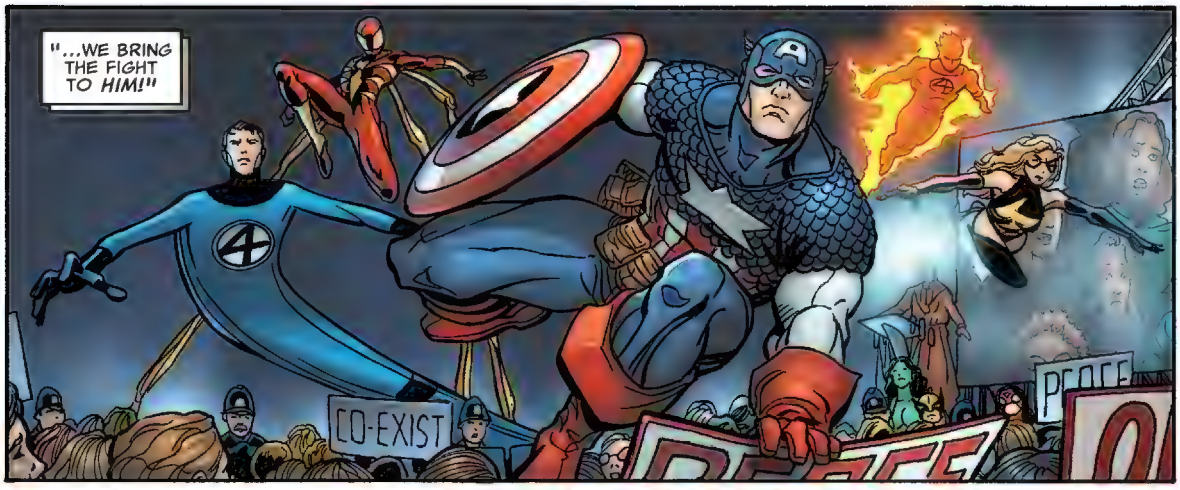
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT DO I THINK, DUM DUM...?

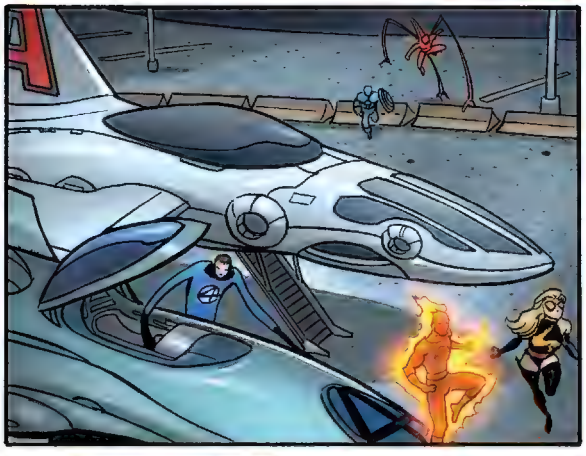

"...I THINK WE'RE SCREWED."
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSLIM PEACE AUTHORITY, NOBEL PRIZE NOMINEE, KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB...

ONE WORLD
PEACE
Peace Now
THE MESSAGE IS LOVE
PEACE NOW
WELCOME, WELCOME, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

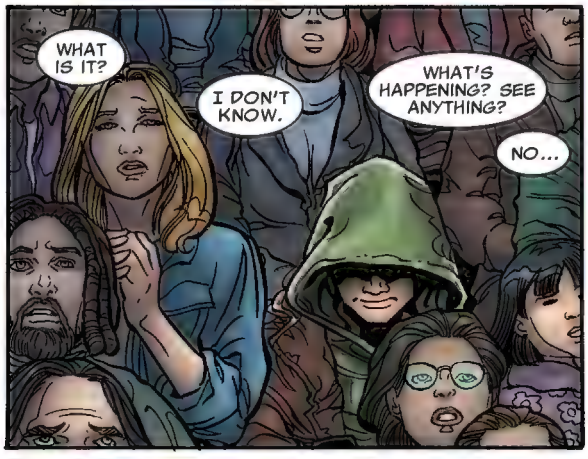

WE GATHER TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME SKY, THE SAME STARS, THE SAME MOON UNDER WHICH SO MANY OTHERS HAVE GATHERED...
...JOINED BY A COMMON DREAM. WE ARE THE LITTLE PEOPLE. THOSE WHO WOULD OPPRESS US DO SO IN THE NAME OF THE GREATER GOOD...
> COMMAND.EXE.TARGET...
> KARIM MAHWASH NAJEEB
> EXECUTE Y/N ?
> Y
"FOR IT IS SAID THAT THE LITTLE PEOPLE CANNOT THINK FOR THEMSELVES. THE LITTLE PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM.
"THE LITTLE PEOPLE MUST BE DECEIVED AND CAJOLED AND MANIPULATED. MOST OF ALL, THE LITTLE PEOPLE MUST BE CONTROLLED..."

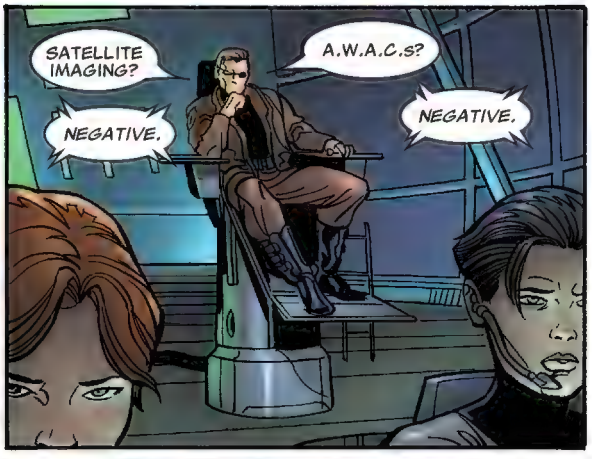
...THE LITTLE PEOPLE WHO GATHERED AT MASADA, WHO GATHERED AT NICOPOLIS, AT SALT SATYAGRAHA, AT TIANANMEN SQUARE. AS WE GATHER. HERE. NOW.
UNDER THE SAME STARS. WITH THE SAME PRAYER. FOR PEACE.
BLAH BLAH BLAH...
BOOM
WHAT THE...
...HELL...
PEACE
...IS THAT?
TAC-LEVEL RED! I WANT GROUND FORCES ON HIGH ALERT! L.D.R...?
NEGATIVE!
HOLD FOR A VISUAL AND SCRAMBLE THE CAPES! THE MINUTE WE PICK HIM UP...


"...WE BRING THE FIGHT TO HIM!"
CO-EXIST

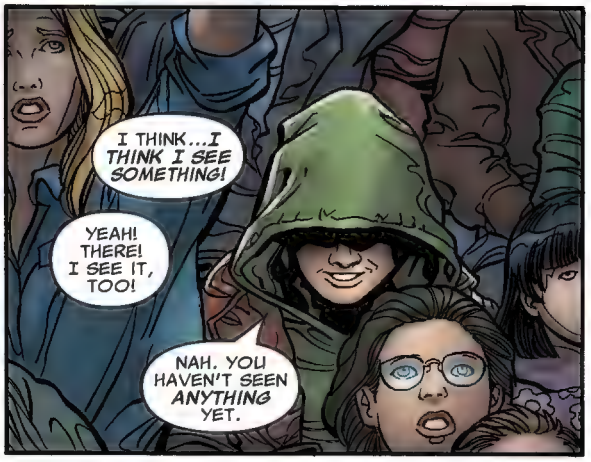


SIR, WE SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY...
NO. I WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED!


WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? SEE ANYTHING?
NO...


SATELLITE IMAGING?
NEGATIVE.
A.W.A.C.s?
NEGATIVE.

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU...?


I THINK...I THINK I SEE SOMETHING!
YEAH! THERE! I SEE IT, TOO!
NAH. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET.

WE'VE GOT A VISUAL!
INCOMING?
AFFIRMATIVE... NO! WAIT! HE'S OUTGOING. HEADING DUE NORTH.
HE'S RUNNIN' RABBIT. QUINJET ONE...?
TARGET ACQUIRED...
QUINJET ONE, THIS IS COLONEL FURY. CONFIRM TARGET, CONFIRM TARGET! IS IT OUR BOY?
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS, NICK...
"...THE TOOTH FAIRY?"

REED, ENGAGE YOUR FLIGHT RECORDER, I HAVE A STATEMENT TO MAKE.
TONY, THIS IS CRAZY--
I'VE BEEN COMPROMISED. SOMEBODY SURGICALLY IMPLANTED A BIO-MAGNETIC NEURAL OVERRIDE DEVICE IN MY BRAIN...
RESCUE
I USED AN M.R.I. TO REVERSE THE POLARITY OF THE MATRIX. I BLOCKED THE LAST INCOMING TRANSMISSION AND SENT OUT A DATA-BURST.
I INSTRUCTED THE SENDING UNIT TO GENERATE A PING EVERY THIRTY SECONDS.
I'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM.
TRACKING WHO?!
I DON'T KNOW, CAROL, BUT I'M CLOSING IN!
HEADS UP, BY THE WAY--

FREEZE!!!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
I DON'T-- YOU WERE TRACKING A WHAT? A SENDING UNIT?
YOU REALLY SHOULD LOG MORE STICK-TIME, REED. WHERE WAS I, ANYWAY?
WRONG. I AM TRACKING THE SENDING UNIT, RIGHT NOW.
STAND BY FOR VISUAL...
WHAT THE...
REED, THIS IS CAP. YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT?
NONE WHATSOEVER.

TONY? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
IT'S A LIVE FEED FROM MY VISUAL CORTEX.
A LIVE FEED? THIS MAKES NO SENSE.
IT WILL. AT LEAST I HOPE IT WILL.
"OH, NO. NO, THIS CAN'T BE...
YOU!
"CAP! WE'RE CHASING AN EMPTY SUIT!"

WHO ARE YOU?!
"WHAT?!"
"TONY SAID IT'S A LIVE FEED FROM HIS VISUAL CORTEX! WE'RE SEEING WHAT HE'S SEEING! RIGHT NOW!
STOP!
"STARK IS NOT INSIDE THE ARMOR! REPEAT! HE IS NOT INSIDE THE ARMOR!"
HEY!

GOTCHA!
"STARK'S AT WEMBLEY!
"HE'S IN THE STADIUM!"
"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! STARK'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PILOT THAT ARMOR!"
TH!
OK
GAO YAO!
RRRRGH!
"I DIDN'T SAY HE ISN'T PILOTING IT...
"...I JUST SAID HE'S NOT INSIDE IT!"

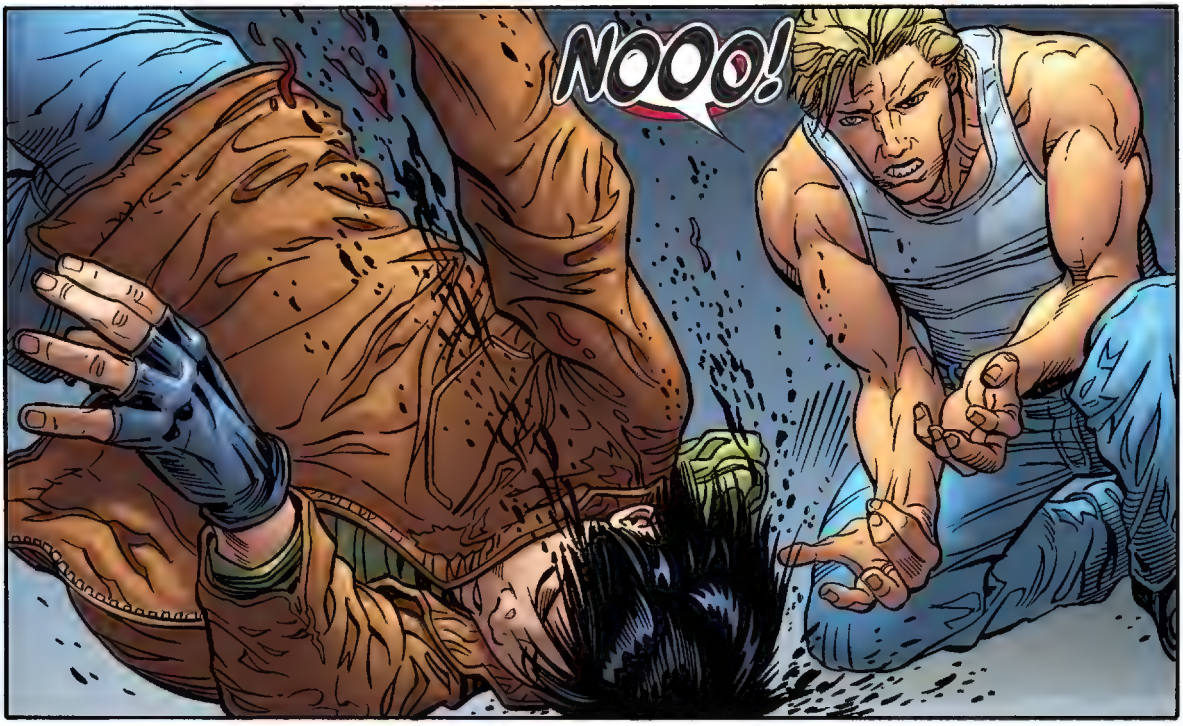
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, I PRE-PROGRAMMED A SERIES OF KEYWORDS INTO YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS, "GAO YAO," FOR INSTANCE, TRIGGERS ALL YOUR PAIN RECEPTORS SIMULTANEOUSLY.
GAO YAO IS ALSO THE CHINESE GOD OF JUDGMENT.
COOL, HUH...?
W-WHO...UH! RRRRRH!
WHO AM I?
CALL ME A LOOSE END...
...ONE OF THOUSANDS OF LOOSE ENDS YOU'VE LEFT BEHIND IN YOUR MISSION TO SERVE MANKIND.
NICK, ARE YOU GETTING MY RELAY?
AFFIRMATIVE. WE'RE RUNNING A FACIAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM ON LIVE FEEDS FROM STADIUM SECURITY-CAMS. SHOULD HAVE THEIR EXACT LOCATION ANY MINUTE.
MY FATHER WAS A MAN LIKE YOU...
HE WAS HUGE FAN OF THE PRACTICAL USE OF MAGNETS.
IN FACT, HE DISCOVERED THAT MAGNETIC IMPLANTS COULD CORRECT THE FLOW OF NEURAL IMPULSES.
HE COULD CURE DEPRESSION, SCHIZOPHRENIA, PERHAPS REDEFINE A MAN'S VERY SOUL. TURN CRIMINAL SOCIOPATHS INTO MODEL CITIZENS.
BUT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT HIS EXPERIMENTS, HE NEEDED MONEY. LOTS OF MONEY. AND HE DIDN'T HAVE THE PATIENCE TO SETTLE FOR THE TRICKLE HE'D GET FROM UNIVERSITY GRANTS.
NO. THAT MIGHT TAKE DECADES. PEOPLE WERE SICK! THEY NEEDED HELP NOW!
SO HE GOT IN BED WITH GOVERNMENT. BUT GOVERNMENTS AREN'T TERRIBLY INTERESTED IN HUMANITARIAN APPLICATIONS, ARE THEY, TONY?
NO. WEAPONS DESIGN. THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS. AFTER ALL, THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS...
...A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO IMPROVE MILLIONS OF LIVES, TO SERVE MANKIND?
WHAT IS THE PRICE, TONY? HOW MANY BABIES INJURED BY YOUR MINES WILL SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES CRAWLING AROUND ON STUMPS SO YOU CAN BUILD A BETTER MEDICAL PROSTHETIC?
HUNDREDS? THOUSANDS...?

I'M SURE YOU'VE DONE THE MATH. JUST LIKE MY FATHER DID WHEN HE PLACED THAT IMPLANT IN YOUR HEAD FOR THE TALIBAN.
HO... YINSEN. YOUR FATHER...
THAT'S RIGHT. DEAR OLD DAD. SO, UHM...
...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A LOOSE END, TONY?
DO THE ENDS STILL JUSTIFY THE MEANS?
ALL THOSE PEOPLE...DEAD. ALL THOSE...PEOPLE. REVENGE...FOR YOUR FATHER?
MY FATHER? NO! NEVER! HE WAS A MONSTER!
BUT KELLARD... TANZERIAN, KARZAI--
--LEMAR, NAJEEB. YEAH. AND GORLOVICH.
GORLOVICH?! WHO...?
"ANDREI GORLOVICH. THE MAN YOU KILLED IN BULGARIA.
YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THE JOB.
"ANDREI GORLOVICH. HIRED BY THE MEN WHO ORDERED MY FATHER TO PLACE THE IMPLANT IN THE SKULL OF A PROMISING YOUNG WEAPONS DESIGNER...

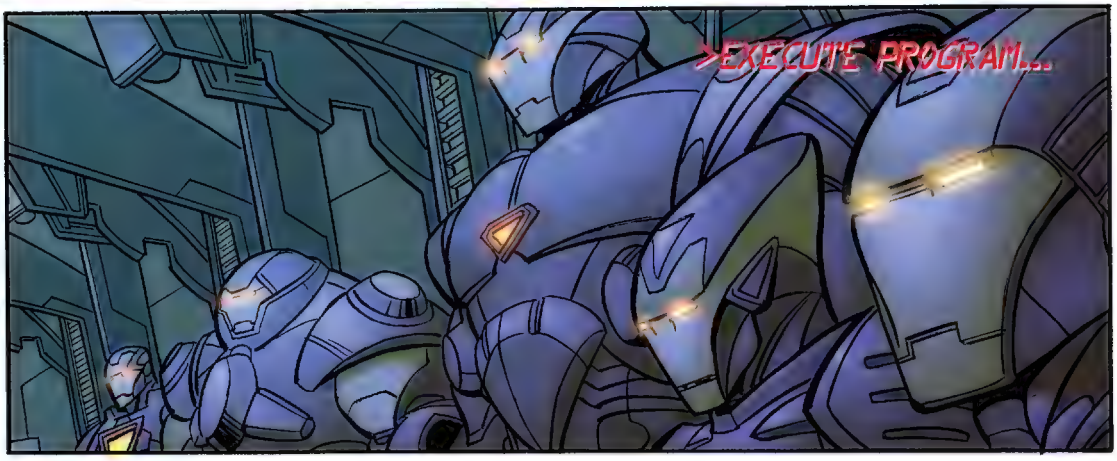
"...AN IMPLANT THAT WAS *USELESS* WITHOUT THE *SENDING UNIT* HE'D HAD SMUGGLED OUT OF AFGHANISTAN.
chinese letters in gold
"ANDREI GORLOVICH. THE MAN WHO WAS HIRED TO RECOVER THE SENDING UNIT FROM THE *ONLY PERSON* MY FATHER EVER TRUSTED.
"ANDREI GORLOVICH...
"...THE MAN WHO MURDERED *MY MOTHER.*"
HE SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THE JOB...
SO WHAT'S... WHAT'S IT GONNA BE, KID? ALL THOSE PEOPLE DEAD...*DEAD* TO MAKE...SOME KIND OF...SOPHOMORIC *POINT?*
CONGRATULATIONS. POINT...*TAKEN.* NOW WHAT?

NOW WHAT...?
SNIK
NOW I WALK AWAY.
PEACE
YOU'RE DONE, STARK. FINISHED.
SNIK!
THIS ISN'T DONE! NOT BY A LONG SHOT!
OH, BUT IT IS. BECAUSE I'VE GOT A DEAD-MAN'S SWITCH BURIED IN YOUR BRAIN. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, THAT SWITCH IS FLIPPED.
AND ALL THE LIVES IRON MAN HAS TAKEN SO FAR WILL BE NOTHING BUT A CHEAP PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS.
I'VE GOT HIM, SIR.
TAKE THE SHOT.
BUT...BUT COLONEL. HE'S JUST A KID!
SOLDIER, THAT KID HAS FULL OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE IRON MAN WEAPONS SYSTEM! NOW...
...TAKE...THE SHOT!

KERR-RACK!


NOOO!

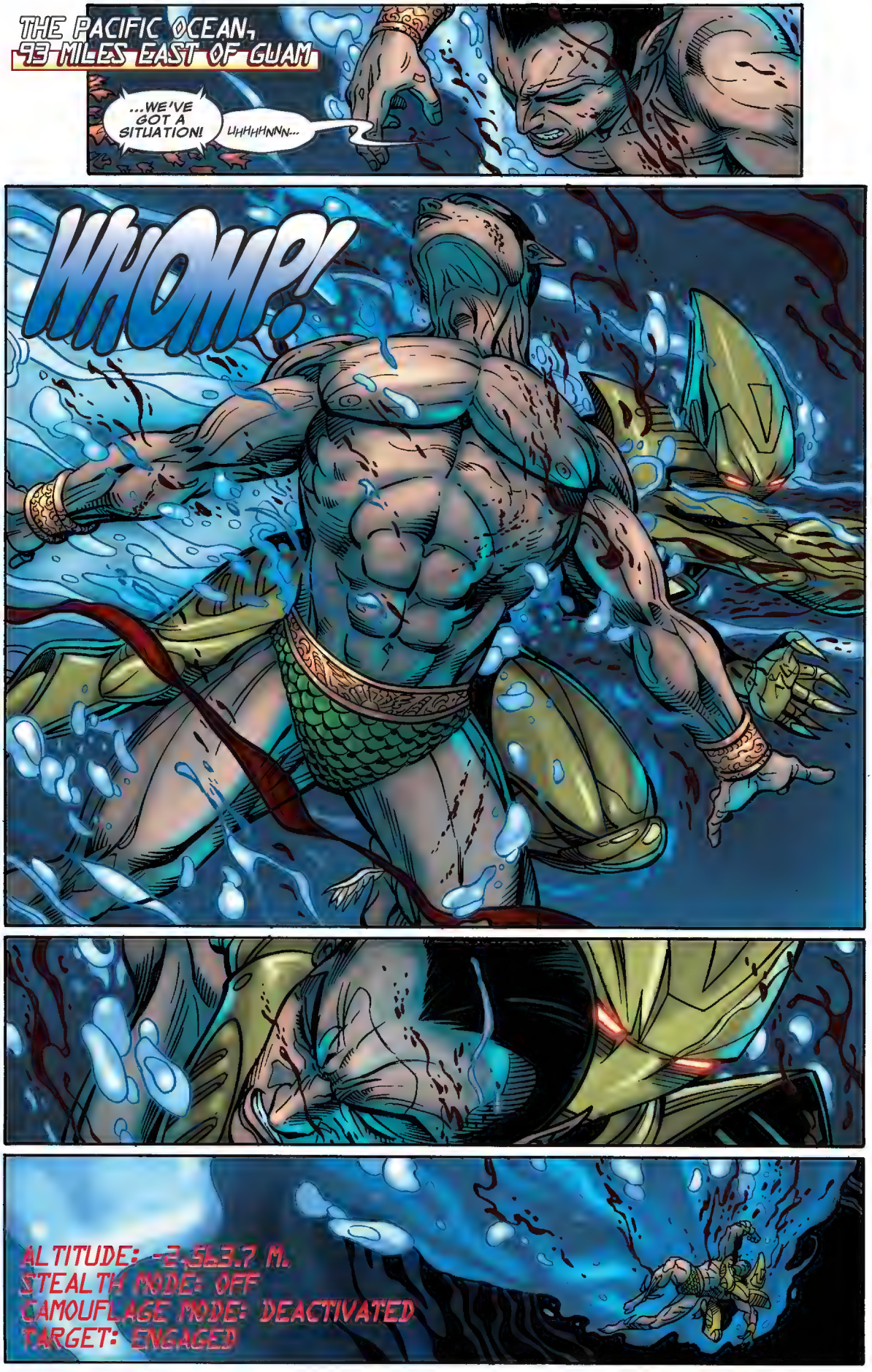
OPERATION CODE// TIAN-GOU
>ACTIVATE...


>EXECUTE PROGRAM...

#12

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER
MOBILE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PEACEKEEPING FORCE
WE'VE GOT TSUNAMIS HITTING THE MARIANAS, SATELLITES BURNING UP ON FORCED REENTRIES, SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN THE SAUDI OIL FIELDS...
AND THESE ARE YOUR IDEA OF PEACEKEEPERS?!
A BATTLEFIELD VERSION, A SUBMARINER, A STEALTH FIGHTER, ANOTHER ONE THAT--WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT ONE DO?
THAT'S A TUNNELING UNIT. IT'S GOT A SHIELDED ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM HELM AND USES A HYBRID REPULSOR-UNIBEAM UNIT TO FACILITATE SUBTERRANEAN RESCUES--
RESCUES. YEAH, THAT'S CUTE. AND WHAT'S THIS? ANOTHER HULKBUSTER?!
I WANTED TO COVER EVERY POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY.
MY DESIGN OBJECTIVE WAS A SATELLITE TEAM, ALL OPERATING UNDER ONE DIRECTIVE MIND.
MINE.
AND DID YOUR DESIGN OBJECTIVE HAPPEN TO INCLUDE ANY FAIL-SAFES?
THREE LEVELS, ALL OF THEM DISABLED!
YOU WANT TO HEAR ME SAY I BLEW IT? FINE. I BLEW IT! AND I WILL FACE JUDGMENT FOR THAT. BUT RIGHT NOW, THESE UNITS ARE RUNNING WILD AND PEOPLE ARE DYING, SO THE WAY I SEE IT IS YOU'VE GOT TWO CHOICES...
...YOU CAN ARREST ME NOW, OR HOLD OFF SO I CAN HELP THE OTHERS TAKE THESE THINGS OUT.
YOUR CALL, NICK.

SAUDI ARABIA, BERRI OIL FIELDS
YOU GOT 'EM, SUE?
JUST KEEP THAT SUPPORT STRUT STEADY UNTIL JOHNNY SETS UP A CONTROLLED BLOWOUT!
SUE! BEN! CLEAR OUT! THE GROUND UNDER THIS WHOLE COMPLEX IS GIVING WAY!
WE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN THAT IF THIS THING BREACHES THE WATER TABLE AND STARTS PUMPING OIL INTO THE GULF!
INCOMING!
KERRR-ACCKKK!
NAMOR! NAMOR, THIS IS REED RICHARDS...


THE PACIFIC OCEAN,
93 MILES EAST OF GUAM
...WE'VE GOT A SITUATION!
UHHHHNNN...
WHOMP!
ALTITUDE: -2,563.7 M.
STEALTH MODE: OFF
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: DEACTIVATED
TARGET: ENGAGED

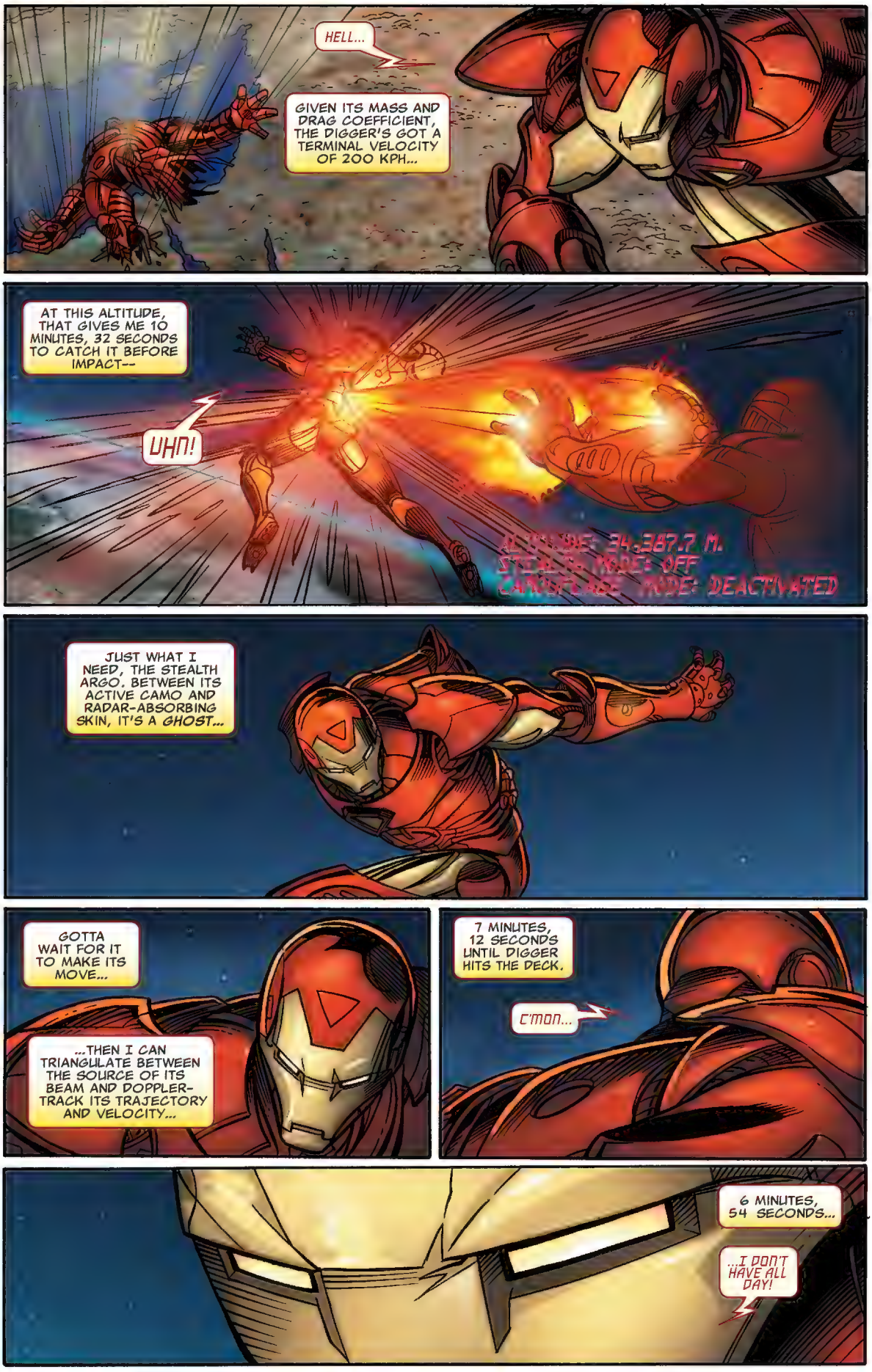
KR-KREECH
RRRIIIPP!
NOW, WHERE THE HELL DID I PUT THAT THING...?
AH, YEAH. HELLO.
GEE, GUESS IT'S KINDA TOUGH TO NAVIGATE WITHOUT EYES AND A GYRO.
I COULD HAVE DONE THAT...
YEAH, SURE YOU COULD'VE.
IRON MAN! THIS IS FURY...
...ONE OF YOUR TOYS IS TEARING THINGS UP OUT AT THE KOSTROMA NUCLEAR PLANT 400 CLICKS NORTHEAST OF MOSCOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING MADE OF?!
STARK-CHOBHAM ARMOR. IT'S AN EXPERIMENTAL COMPOSITE OF CARBON NANOTUBE-REINFORCED CERAMICS SKINNED WITH ADAMANTIUM--
OKAY, I GET IT. YOU'RE JUST DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PISS ME OFF, RIGHT?
I'M WORKING ON IT, OKAY?
NUCLEAR PLANT

WHATEVER YOU DO, BEN, KEEP IT ABOVE GROUND!
IF THIS THING PUNCHES THROUGH THE WATER TABLE, IT'LL TURN THE GULF INTO ONE BIG TIKI-TORCH!
GOTCHA, STRETCH! NO PROBLEM--
UHN!
IT'S GOING SUBTERRANEAN!
NOT ON MY WATCH!

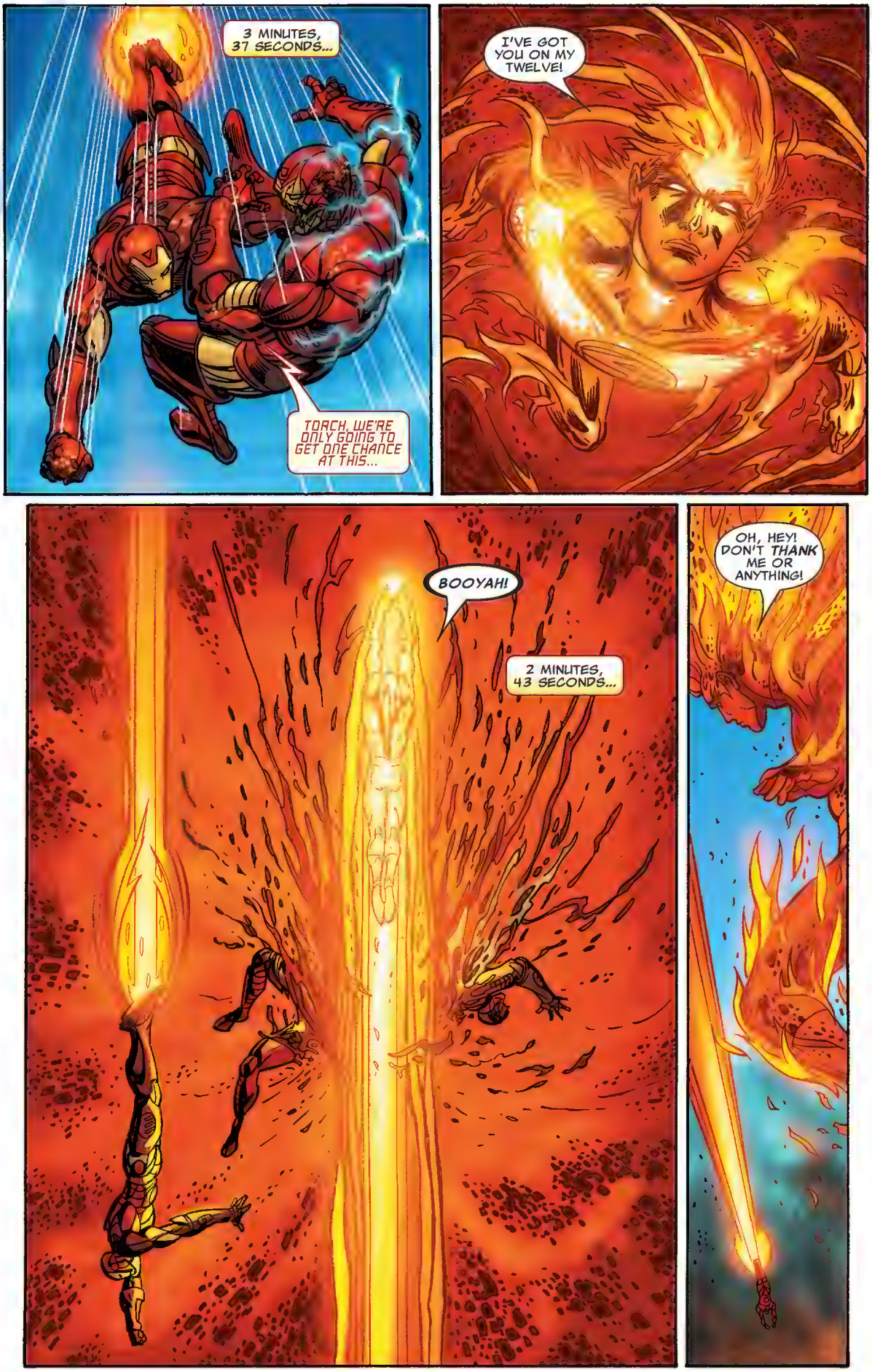
KERR-UNK!
YO! TIN-MAN! I BETCHYER WONDERIN' WHO PUT ON THE BRAKES!
GAWD...THIS THING IS... HEAVY...
FWOOOSSSHH
UH-OH...

BEN?
HEY, I THINK I SEE--
FWOOM
JEEZ...STARK, WHAT WERE YOU... WAITIN' FOR? AN ENGRAVED... INVITATION?
KA-BLAM!
THAT'S ONE...
...AND TWO.
KERRACK!
YOU MADE THAT LOOK EASY.
THE LEGS ARE CAKE. IT'S THE REST OF HIM THAT'S A PROBLEM. BY THE WAY...
...YOU MIGHT WANNA LET GO NOW.

RRRRRRRAAAHHHHH!
CHA-RAACCKKK!
GAHH!

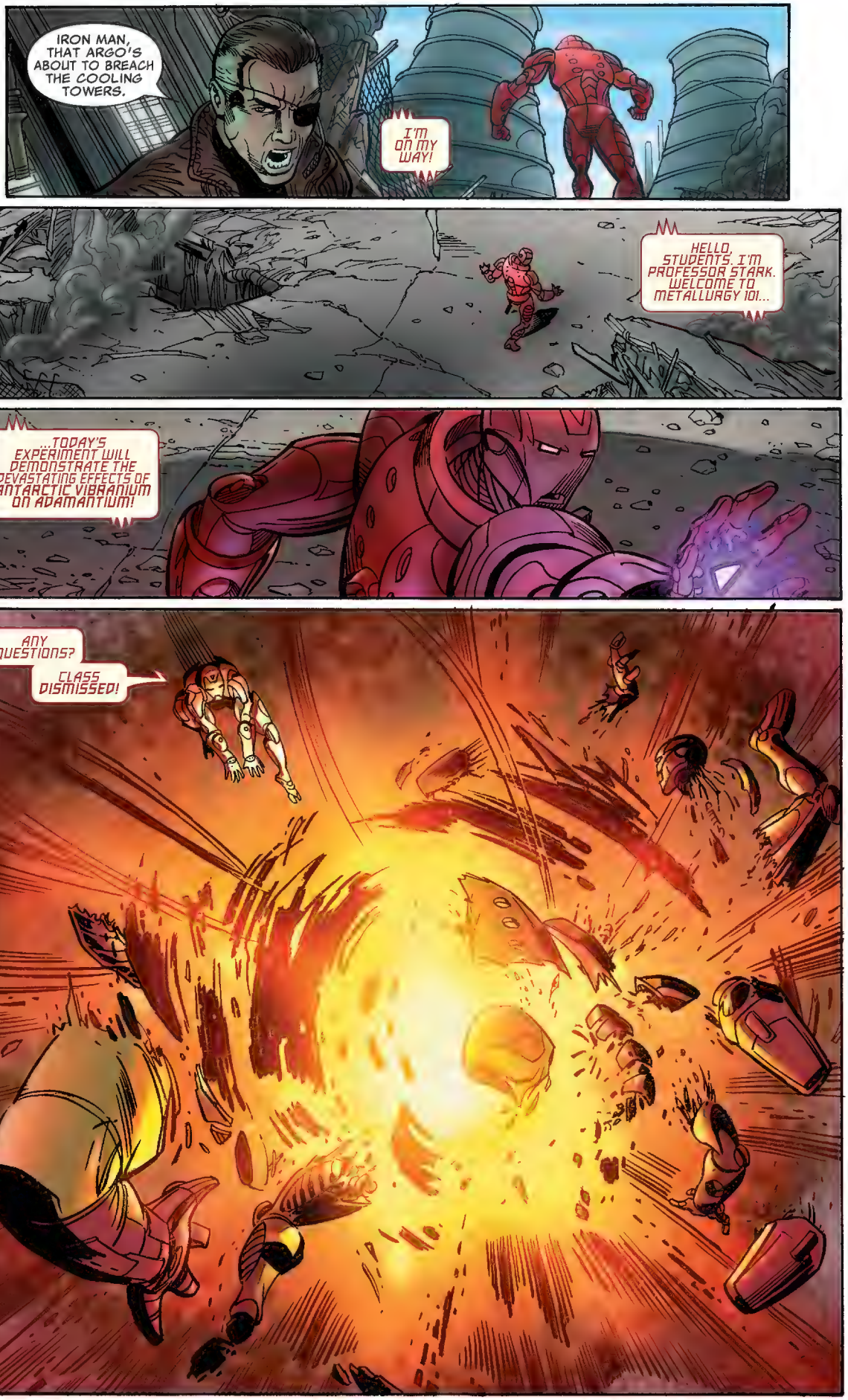

HELL...
GIVEN ITS MASS AND DRAG COEFFICIENT, THE DIGGER'S GOT A TERMINAL VELOCITY OF 200 KPH...
AT THIS ALTITUDE, THAT GIVES ME 10 MINUTES, 32 SECONDS TO CATCH IT BEFORE IMPACT--
UHN!
ALTITUDE: 34,387.7 M.
STEALTH MODE: OFF
CAMOUFLAGE MODE: DEACTIVATED
JUST WHAT I NEED, THE STEALTH ARGO. BETWEEN ITS ACTIVE CAMO AND RADAR-ABSORBING SKIN, IT'S A GHOST...
GOTTA WAIT FOR IT TO MAKE ITS MOVE...
...THEN I CAN TRIANGULATE BETWEEN THE SOURCE OF ITS BEAM AND DOPPLER-TRACK ITS TRAJECTORY AND VELOCITY...
7 MINUTES, 12 SECONDS UNTIL DIGGER HITS THE DECK.
C'MON...
6 MINUTES, 54 SECONDS...
...I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FO--
CHA-BRACKK!
GUHH!
GOTCHA!
5 MINUTES, 11 SECONDS...
KERR-ANNNG!!!
REED, CAN I BORROW JOHNNY FOR A SEC?
YOU GONNA GIVE HIM BACK?


3 MINUTES, 37 SECONDS...
TORCH, WE'RE ONLY GOING TO GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS...
I'VE GOT YOU ON MY TWELVE!
BOOYAH!
2 MINUTES, 43 SECONDS...
OH, HEY! DON'T THANK ME OR ANYTHING!

1 MINUTE, 17 SECONDS TO IMPACT...
46 SECONDS...
33 SECONDS...
DAMN VIBRANIUM HELMET...
GOTTA... KEEP CLEAR... OR MY ARMOR'S... TOAST!
TONY, THIS IS STEVE!

Con Ellison
WE NEED YOU IN TIMES SQUARE, STAT!
HELLO, THIS IS THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN...
GAHH!
I CAN'T COME TO THE... RRRRAHH...PHONE RIGHT NOW...
...BUT IF YOU LEAVE...A MESSAGE...AFTER THE TONE--
TONY, QUIT SCREWIN' AROUND!
WHAT WAS THAT ONE ABOUT THE AFRICAN SWALLOW CARRYING A COCONUT...?
THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME FOR JOKES, STARK.
WHY NOT? SO FAR, I'VE DESTROYED TWO OF FIVE DRONES THAT COST ME THE BETTER PART OF MY PERSONAL FORTUNE TO BUILD...
I'M TRYING TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE WHILE LIFTING 68.7 METRIC TONS OF PURE DUMB RAGE...
AND WHEN I'M DONE, I GET TO GO TO PRISON FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE BECAUSE OF SOME PUNK WHOSE DADDY DIDN'T WUV HIM...
...IF I WASN'T LAUGHING, I'D BE CRYING.

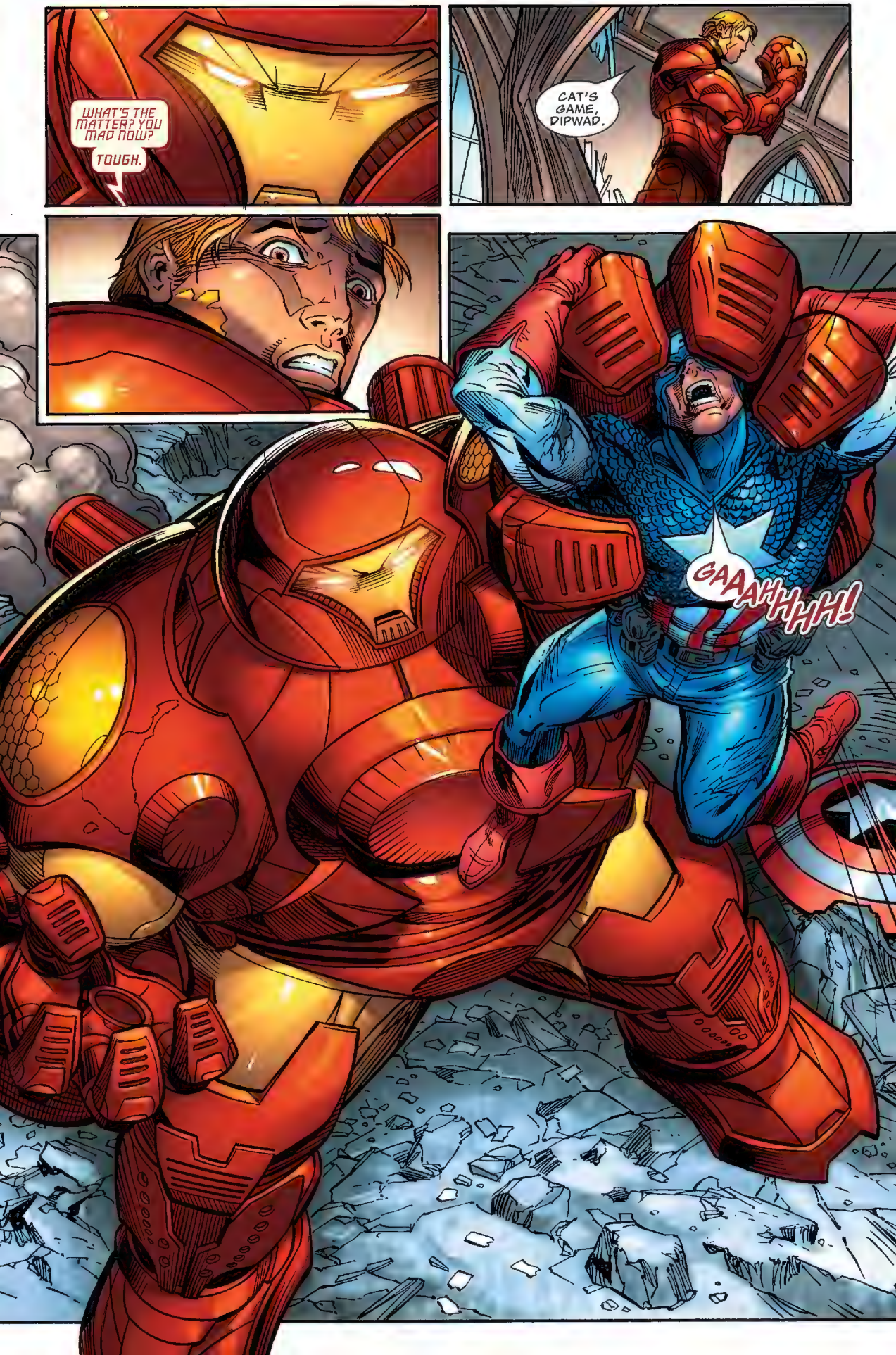

IRON MAN, THAT ARGO'S ABOUT TO BREACH THE COOLING TOWERS.
I'M ON MY WAY!
HELLO, STUDENTS. I'M PROFESSOR STARK. WELCOME TO METALLURGY 101...
...TODAY'S EXPERIMENT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM ON ADAMANTIUM!
ANY QUESTIONS?
CLASS DISMISSED!

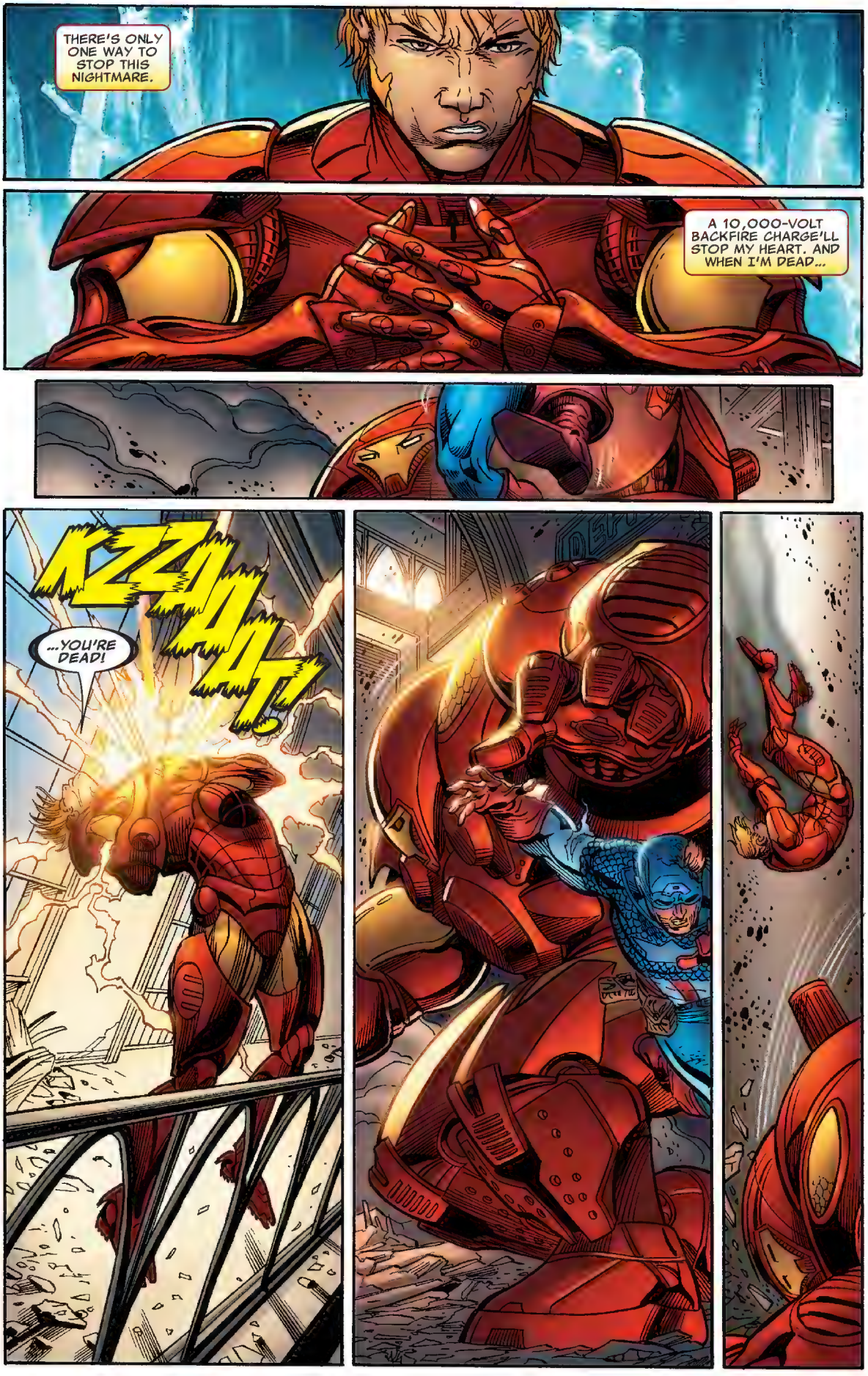
REPZI
THIS THING AIN'T GOIN' DOWN, CAP!
KERR-ICK!!
GAAA...
KAPP!
OH, MAN...NO WAY...

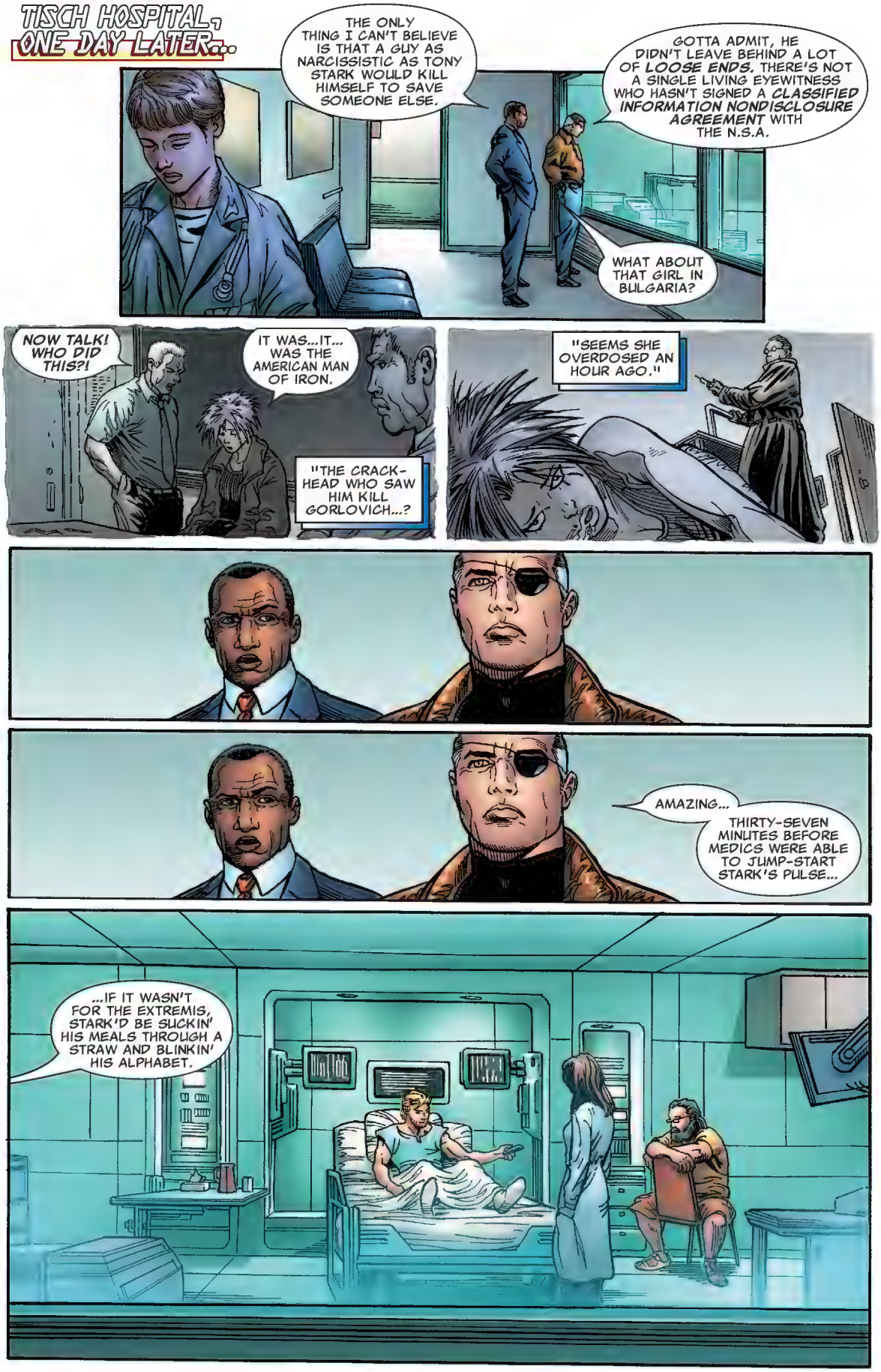
CAP, I'M LESS THAN THREE MINUTES OUT! HOW'RE YOU GUYS HOLDING UP?
...
STEVE! LUKE...! AVENGERS! RESPOND!
...
OH, NO...
LUKE...
WHERE'S CAP?
HE'S OUT COLD. WOLVERINE'S DOWN.
FOLLOW THE CARNAGE...

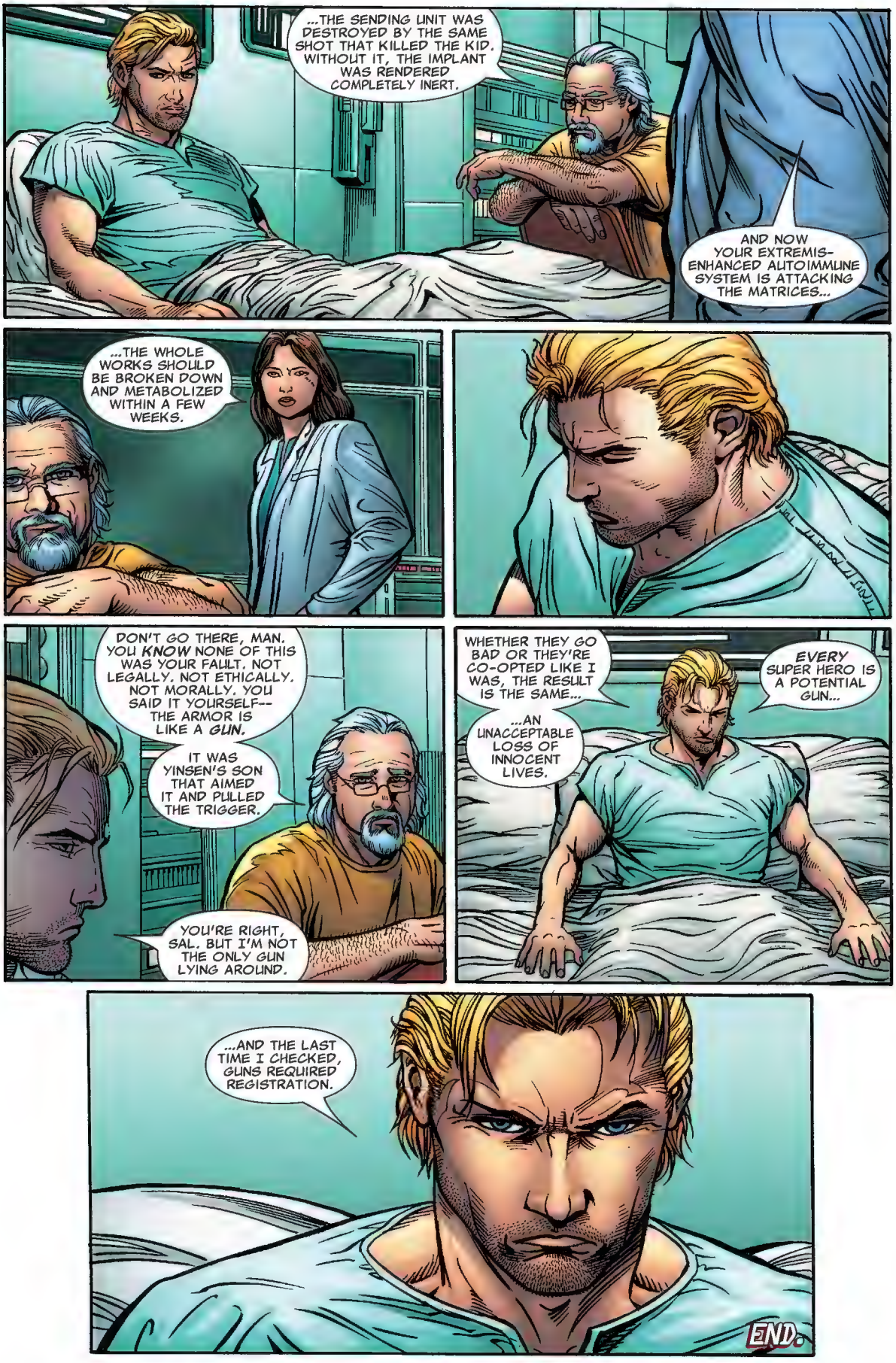
STEVE!
UHHHH...
SBAAM!
KLAAANNG!
UNFF!

WHAT THE--?
IT'S ANTICIPATING ALL MY MOVES...
KER-ACCKK!
UHN!
OF COURSE YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA DO! YOU'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY MY SUBCONSCIOUS. YOU KNOW BECAUSE I KNOW...
IT'S LIKE SHADOW-BOXING... I CAN'T WIN...
...BUT YOU CAN'T, EITHER.


WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU MAD NOW?
TOUGH.
CAT'S GAME, DIPWAD.
GAAAHHHH!


THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE.
A 10,000-VOLT BACKFIRE CHARGE'LL STOP MY HEART. AND WHEN I'M DEAD...
KZZAAT!
...YOU'RE DEAD!

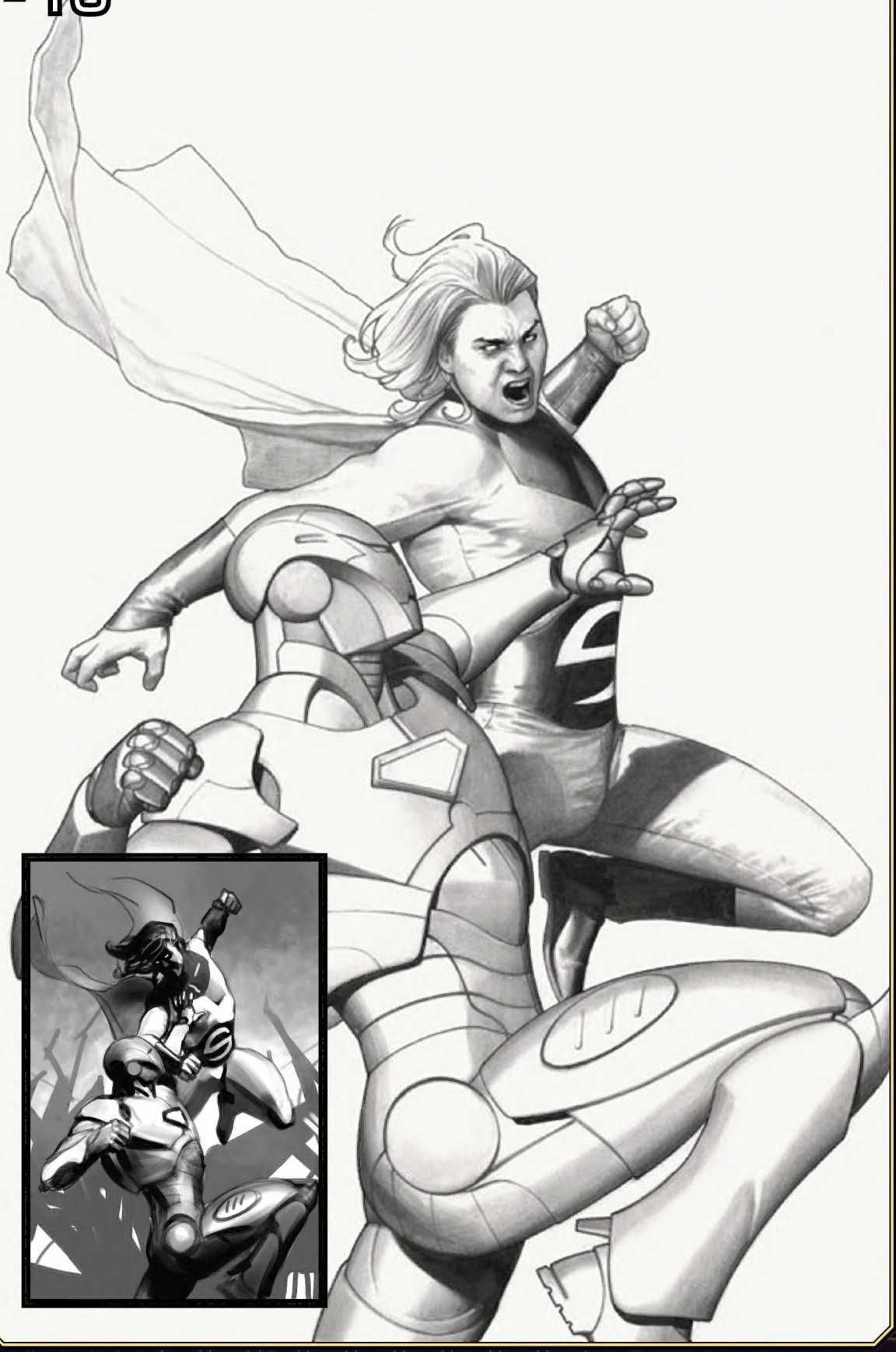

TISCH HOSPITAL, ONE DAY LATER...
THE ONLY THING I CAN'T BELIEVE IS THAT A GUY AS NARCISSISTIC AS TONY STARK WOULD KILL HIMSELF TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE.
GOTTA ADMIT, HE DIDN'T LEAVE BEHIND A LOT OF LOOSE ENDS. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE LIVING EYEWITNESS WHO HASN'T SIGNED A CLASSIFIED INFORMATION NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT WITH THE N.S.A.
WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL IN BULGARIA?
NOW TALK! WHO DID THIS?!
IT WAS...IT... WAS THE AMERICAN MAN OF IRON.
"THE CRACK-HEAD WHO SAW HIM KILL GORLOVICH...?
"SEEMS SHE OVERDOSED AN HOUR AGO."
AMAZING...
THIRTY-SEVEN MINUTES BEFORE MEDICS WERE ABLE TO JUMP-START STARK'S PULSE...
...IF IT WASN'T FOR THE EXTREMIS, STARK'D BE SUCKIN' HIS MEALS THROUGH A STRAW AND BLINKIN' HIS ALPHABET.


...THE SENDING UNIT WAS DESTROYED BY THE SAME SHOT THAT KILLED THE KID. WITHOUT IT, THE IMPLANT WAS RENDERED COMPLETELY INERT.
AND NOW YOUR EXTREMIS-ENHANCED AUTOIMMUNE SYSTEM IS ATTACKING THE MATRICES...
...THE WHOLE WORKS SHOULD BE BROKEN DOWN AND METABOLIZED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.
DON'T GO THERE, MAN. YOU *KNOW* NONE OF THIS WAS YOUR FAULT. NOT LEGALLY. NOT ETHICALLY. NOT MORALLY. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF-- THE ARMOR IS LIKE A *GUN.*
IT WAS YINSEN'S SON THAT AIMED IT AND PULLED THE TRIGGER.
YOU'RE RIGHT, SAL. BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY GUN LYING AROUND.
WHETHER THEY GO BAD OR THEY'RE CO-OPTED LIKE I WAS, THE RESULT IS THE SAME...
...AN UNACCEPTABLE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES.
EVERY SUPER HERO IS A POTENTIAL GUN...
...AND THE LAST TIME I CHECKED, GUNS REQUIRED REGISTRATION.
END.

#7 VARIANT COVER BY BRIAN HITCH

#9 COVER PENCILS AND LAYOUT BY ADI GRANOV

#10 COVER PENCILS AND LAYOUT BY ADI GRANOV



FROM THE CREATOR OF CARNIVALE COMES AN UNEXPECTED NEW DIRECTION FOR THE ARMORED AVENGER!

Having exposed himself to the Extremis enhancile, Tony Stark is a new man – literally! But that's what has his New Avengers allies worried as tensions ratchet up to the breaking point. And who is the ruthless stranger working his way down a globe-spanning hit list of politically sensitive targets? Pulse-pounding action and suspense builds until the unknown assassin is exposed!

Collecting *Iron Man* #7-12 – written by Charlie and Daniel Knauf (*Carnivale*), and illustrated by Patrick Zircher (Cable & Deadpool).

MARVEL A